

STARBLAZER

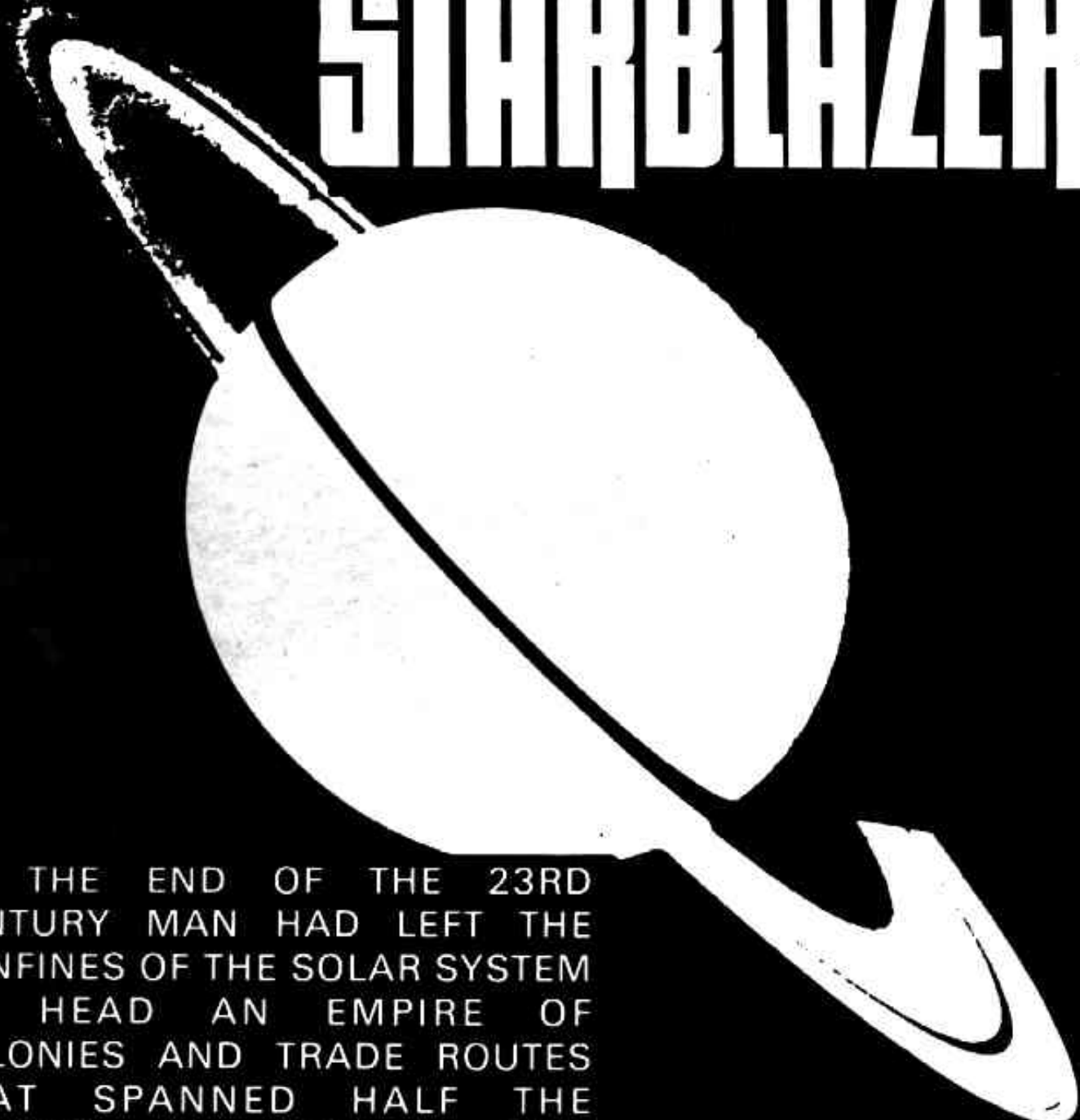
SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 63

16p



LORDS of the WILDERNESS

STARBLAZER



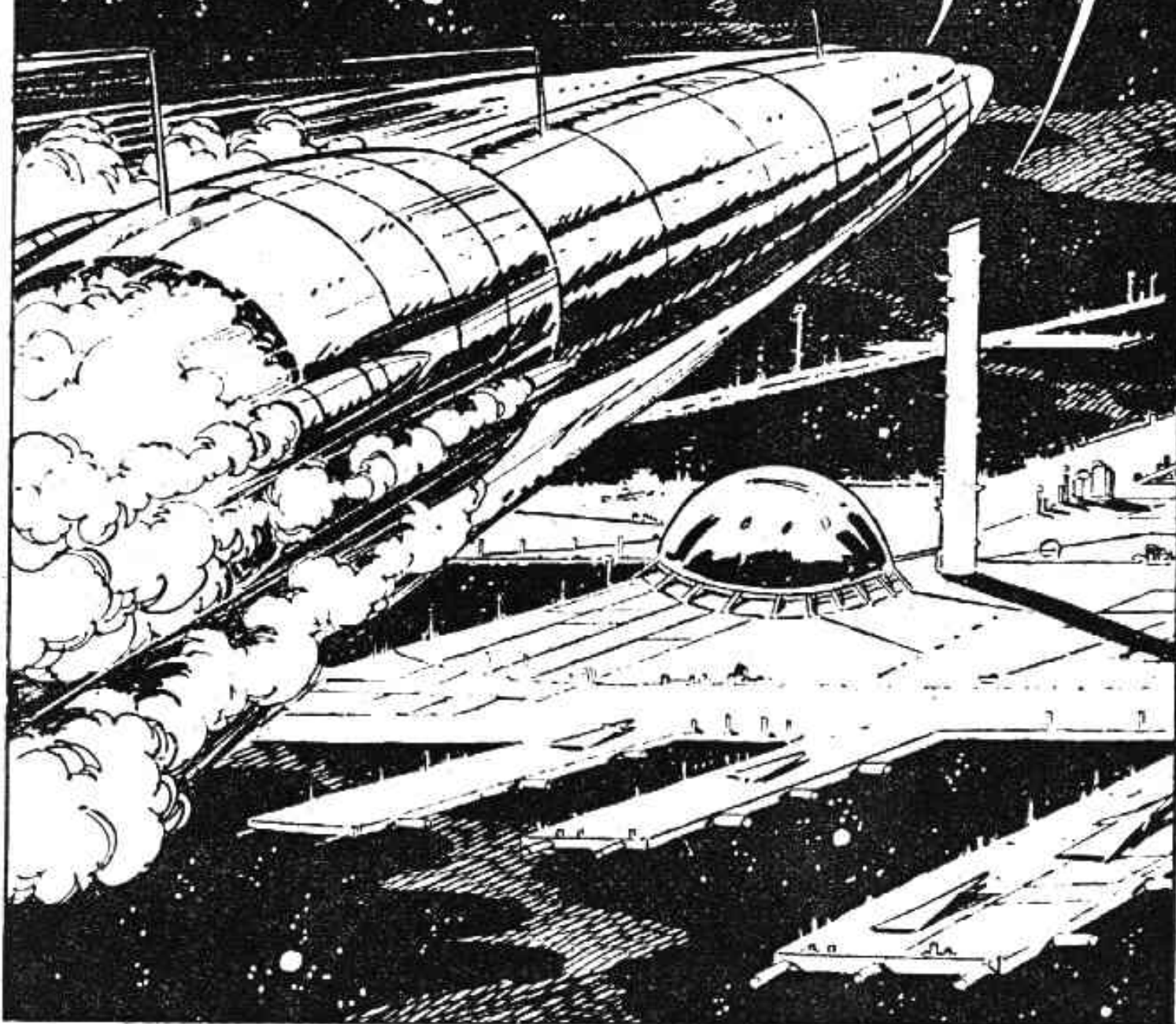
BY THE END OF THE 23RD CENTURY MAN HAD LEFT THE CONFINES OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM TO HEAD AN EMPIRE OF COLONIES AND TRADE ROUTES THAT SPANNED HALF THE GALAXY. THE KEY TO THIS EXPANSION WAS THE FREELANCE SPACER, WHO WOULD TAKE HIS SHIP AND CARGO ANYWHERE IN THE GALAXY FOR A PRICE. EVEN IF THAT PRICE MEANT ENCOUNTERING...

LORDS OF THE WILDERNESS

A SPACE FREIGHTER NOSED DOWN ONTO A LANDING PLATFORM DEEP IN SPACE.

PLATFORM 7... NOVA ONE.

ACKNOWLEDGED, ALTAIR CONTROL.



THE PILOT, KRIS ELTON, TURNED NOVA ONE TOWARDS A DOCKING TUBE.

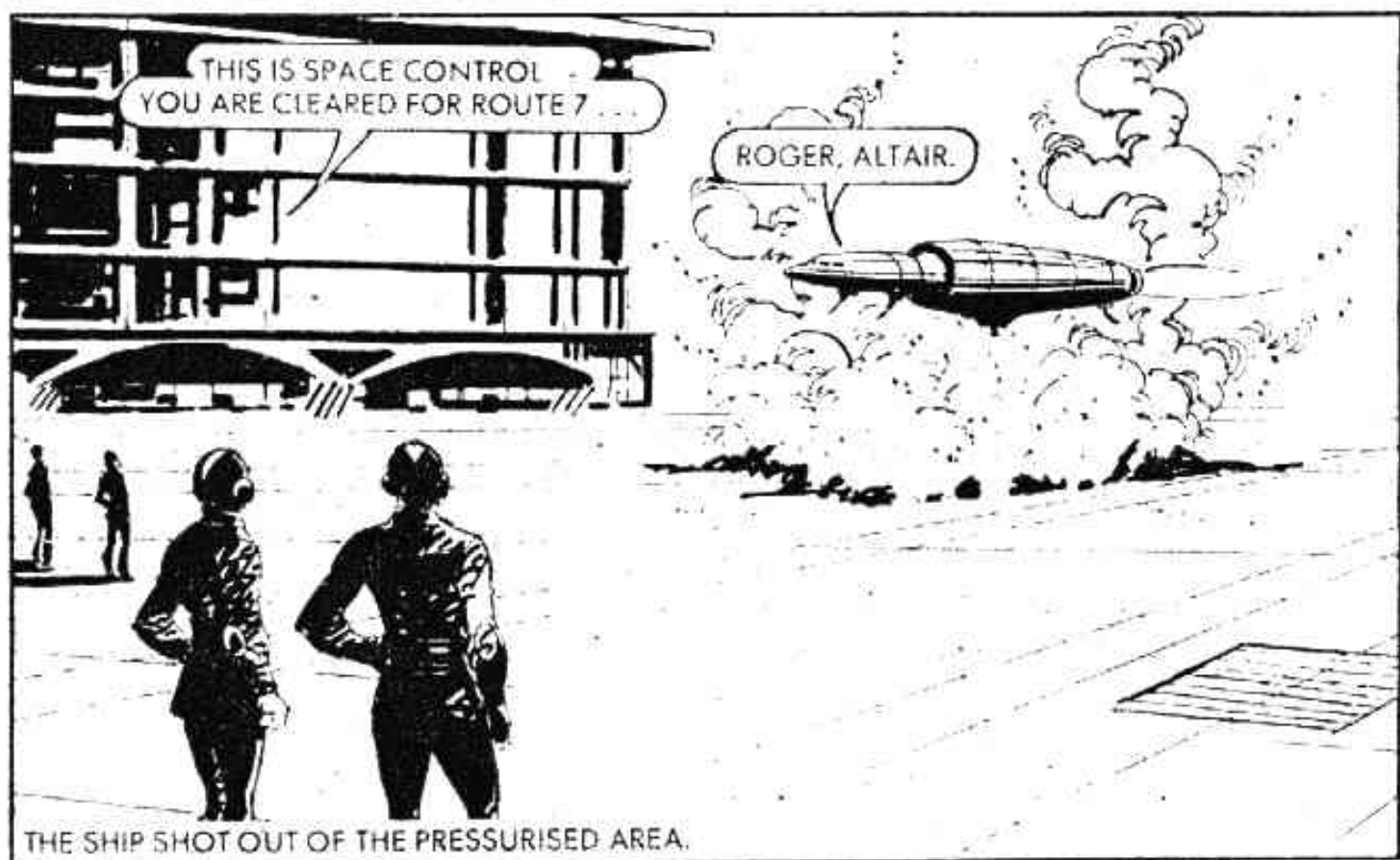
ANY CONTRACTS?

AFFIRMATIVE—DOCK AT BAY 4032.

CAPTAIN ELTON... I AM
THESES OF ACTURIA...





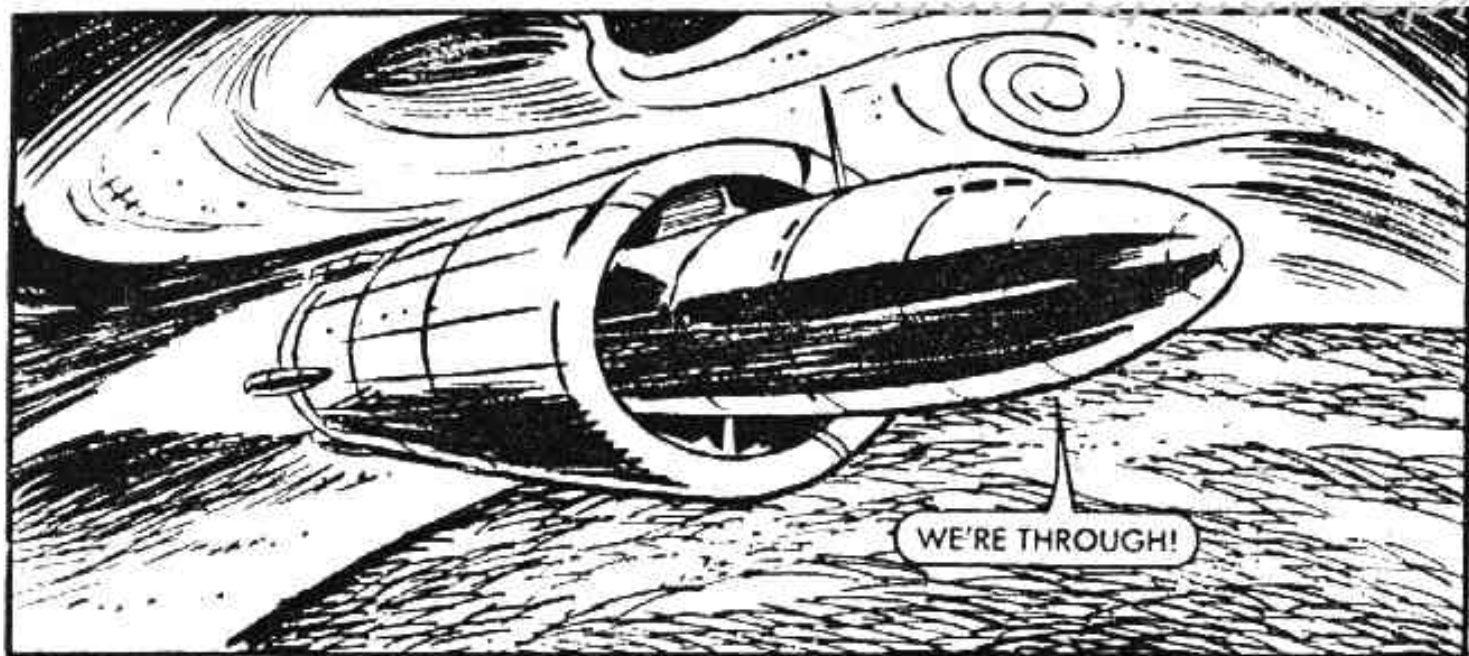






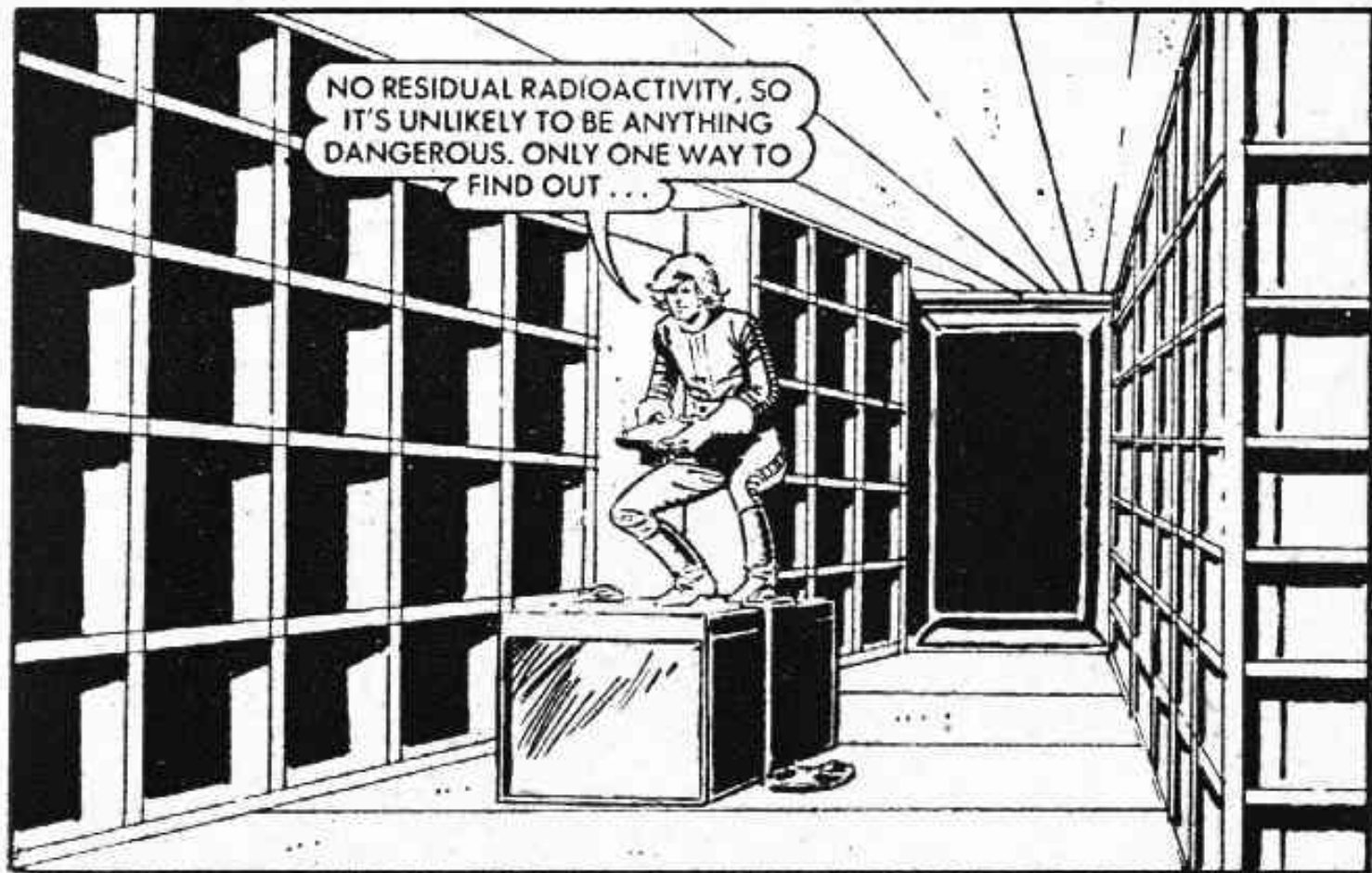
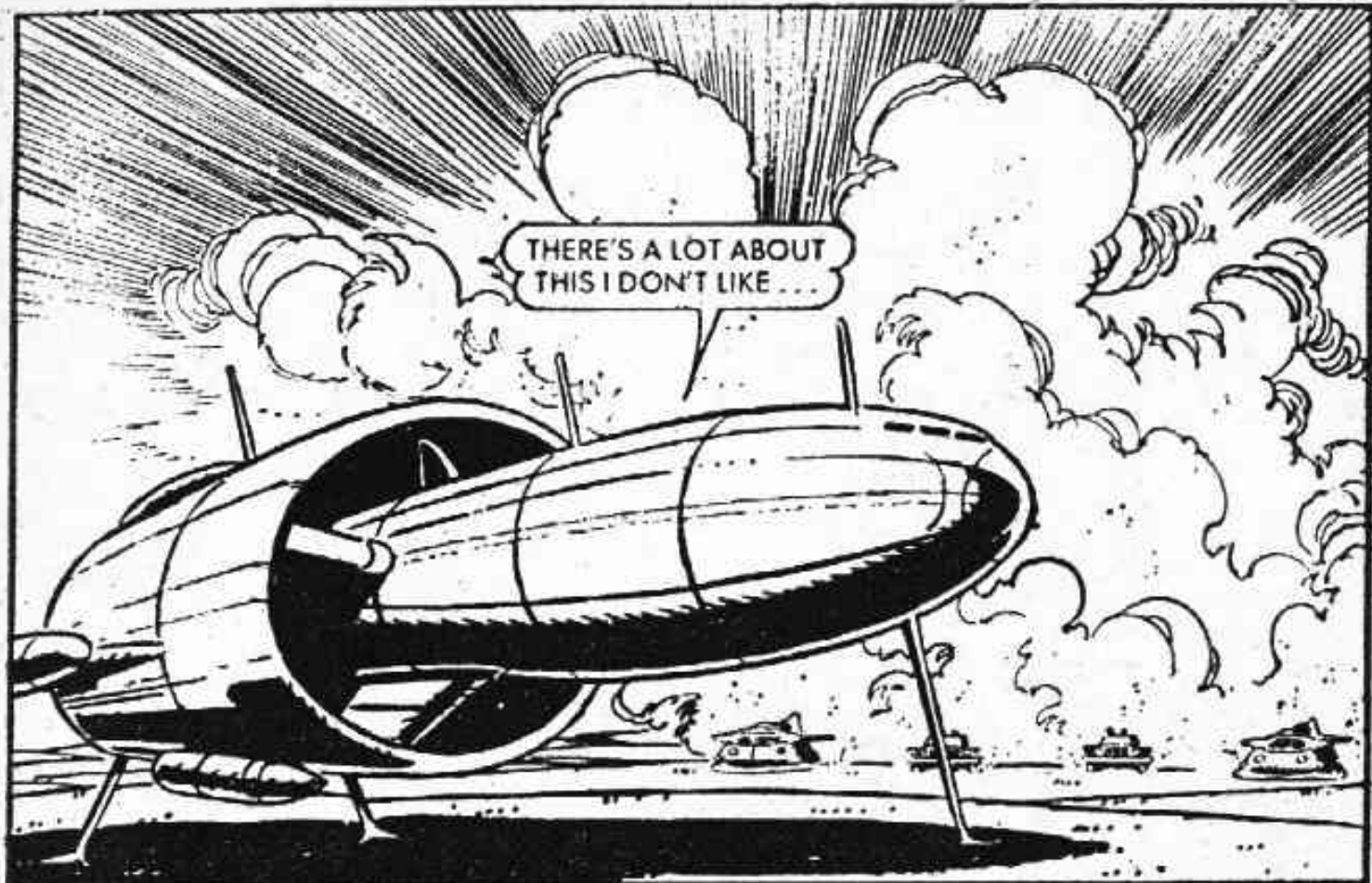




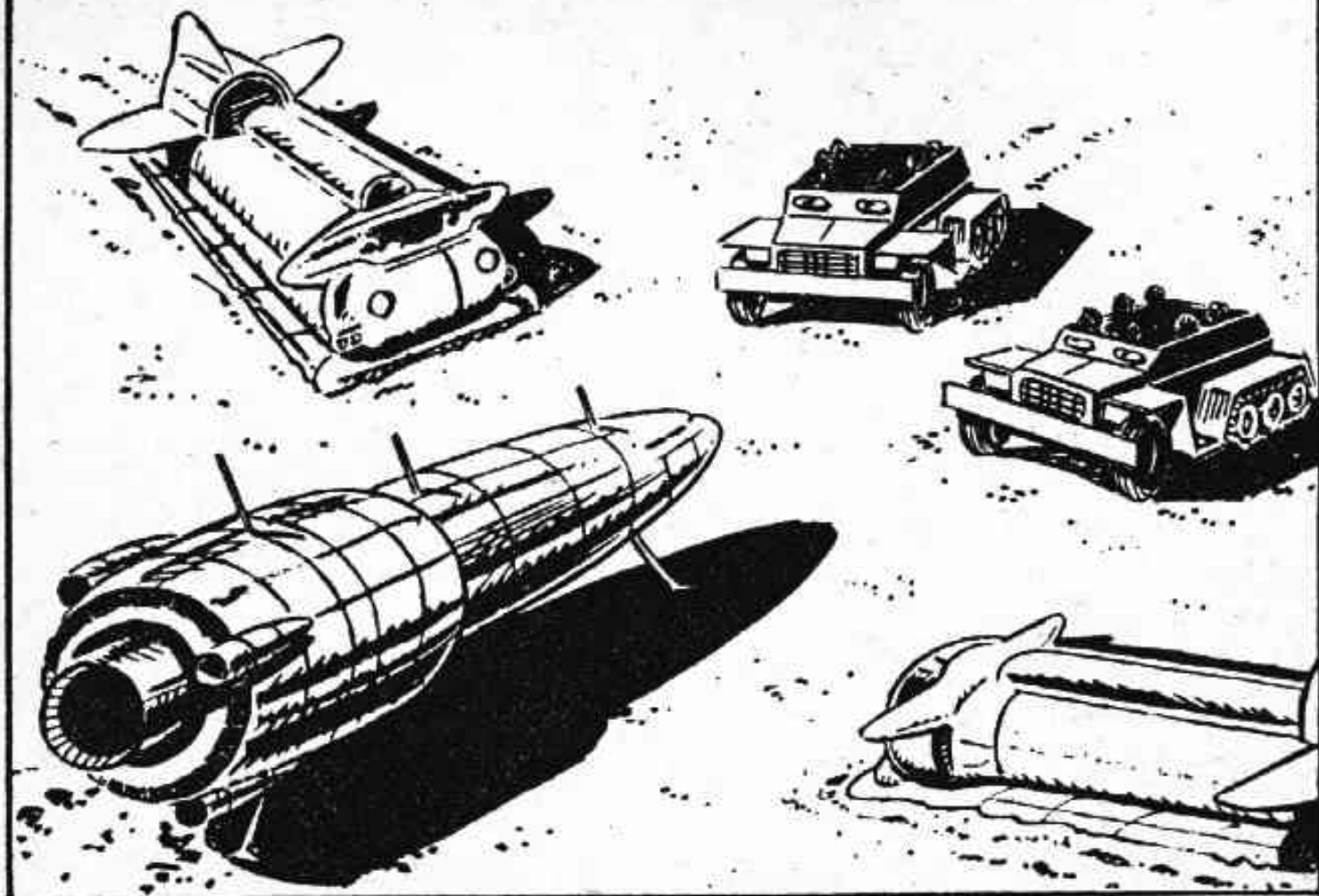


KRIS LANDED, UNAWARE THAT THE SHIP WAS UNDER OBSERVATION.





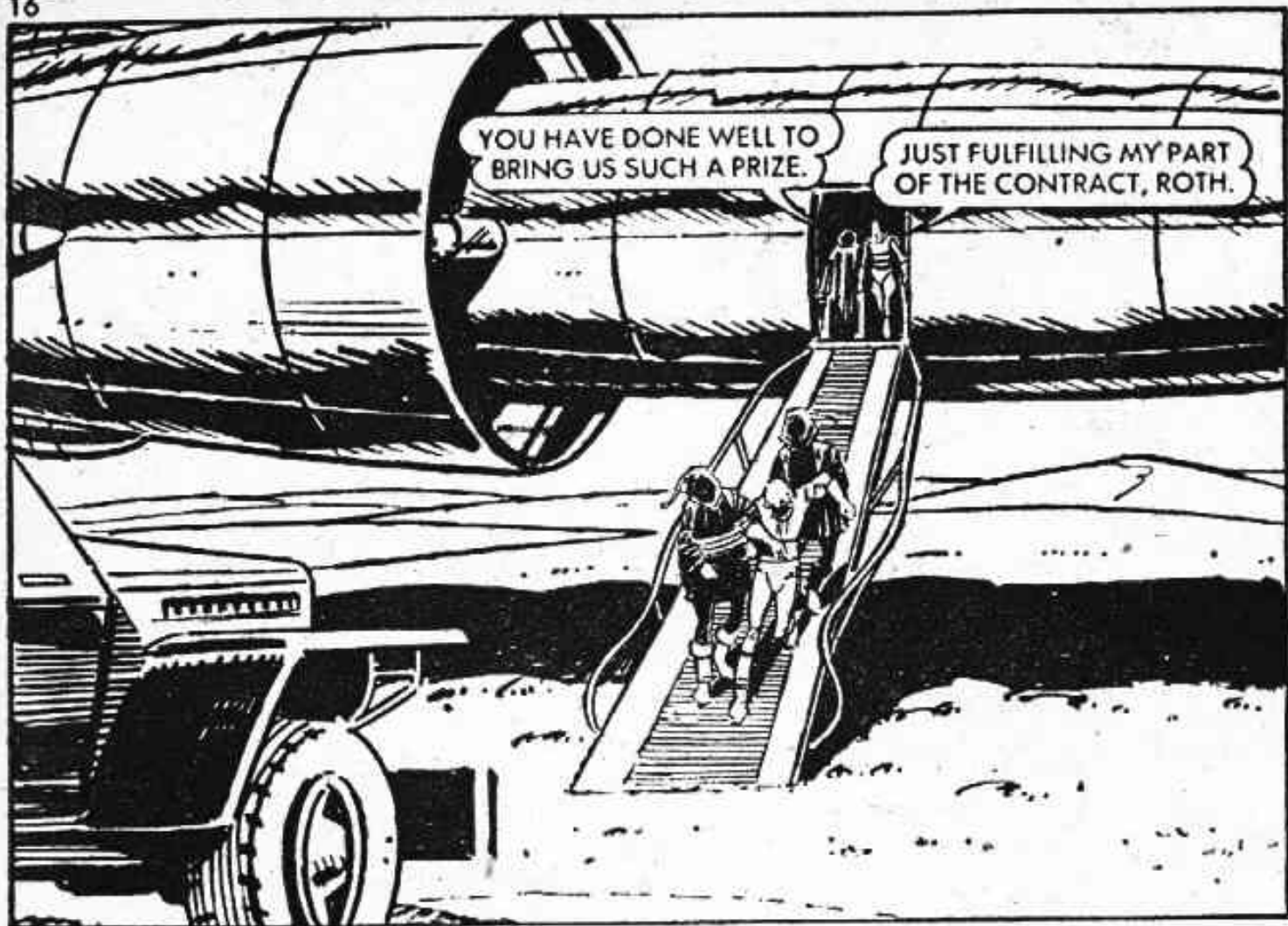
UNKNOWN TO KRIS, THE CRAFT HAD BEEN SURROUNDED.



KRIS PREPARED TO ENTER THE HOLD.



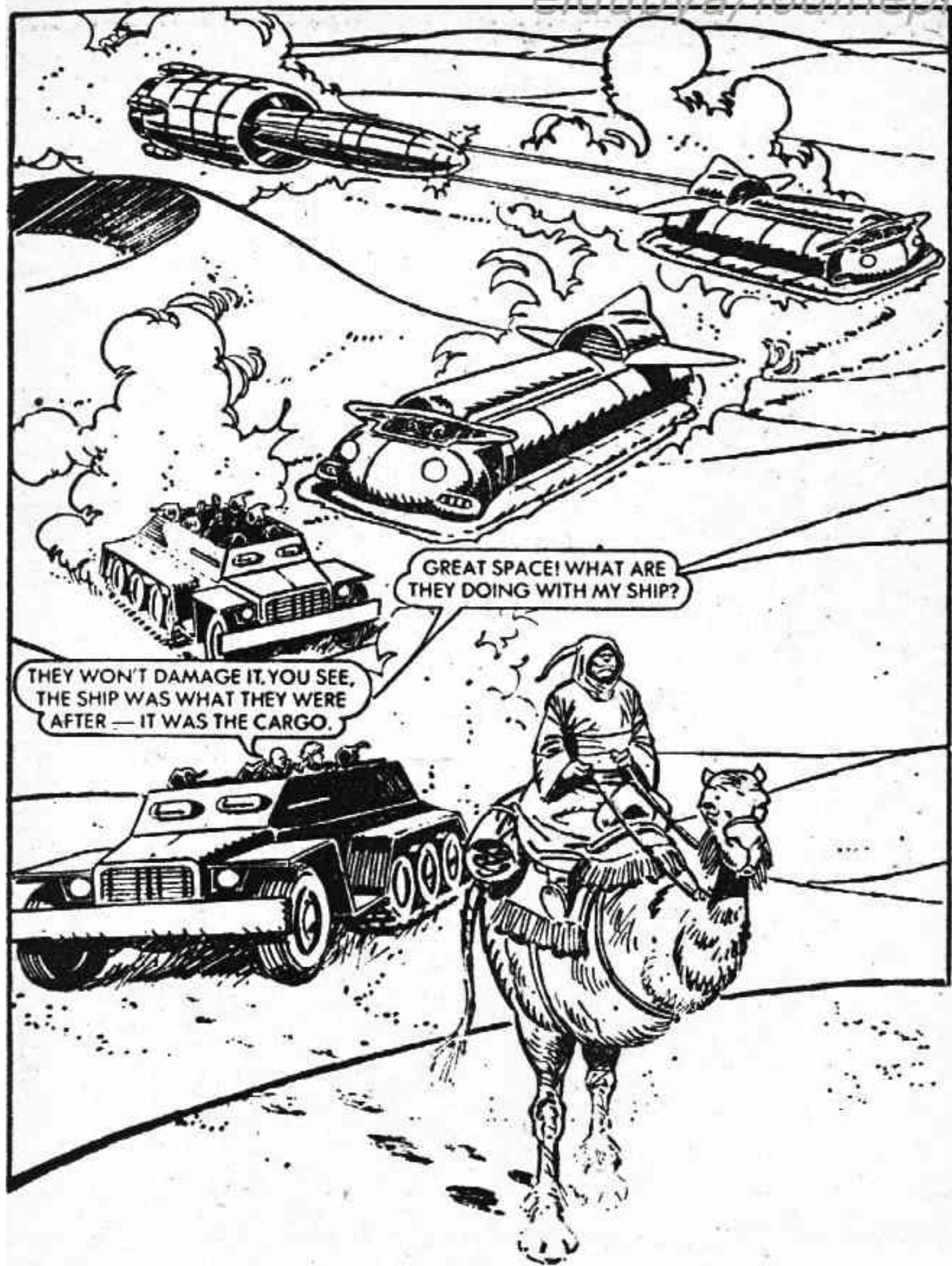




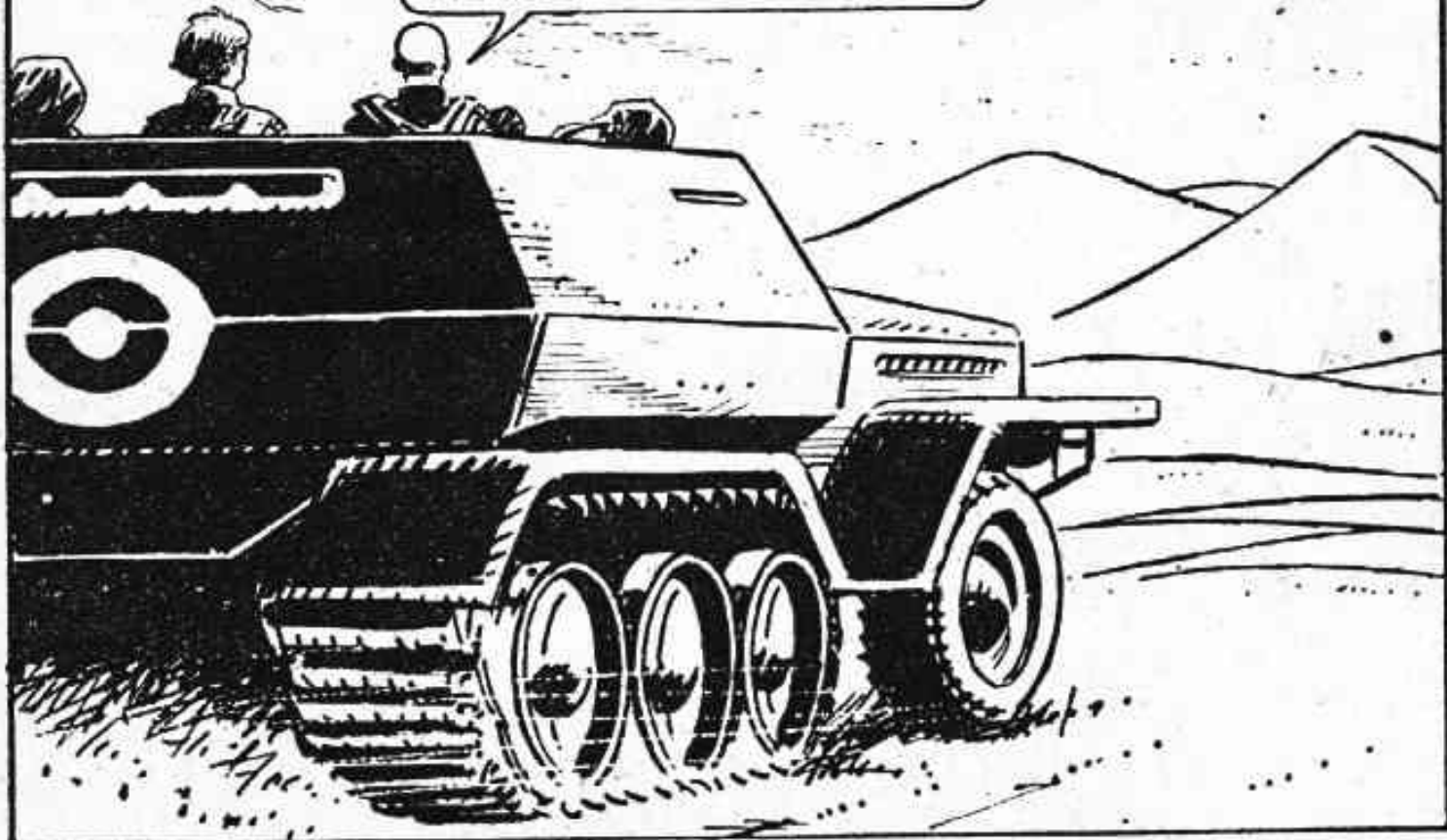
SEVERAL MINUTES LATER, KRIS HAD RECOVERED—

CAPTAIN ELTON—I AM SORRY—MY FRIENDS
TEND TO BE A LITTLE IMPETUOUS.



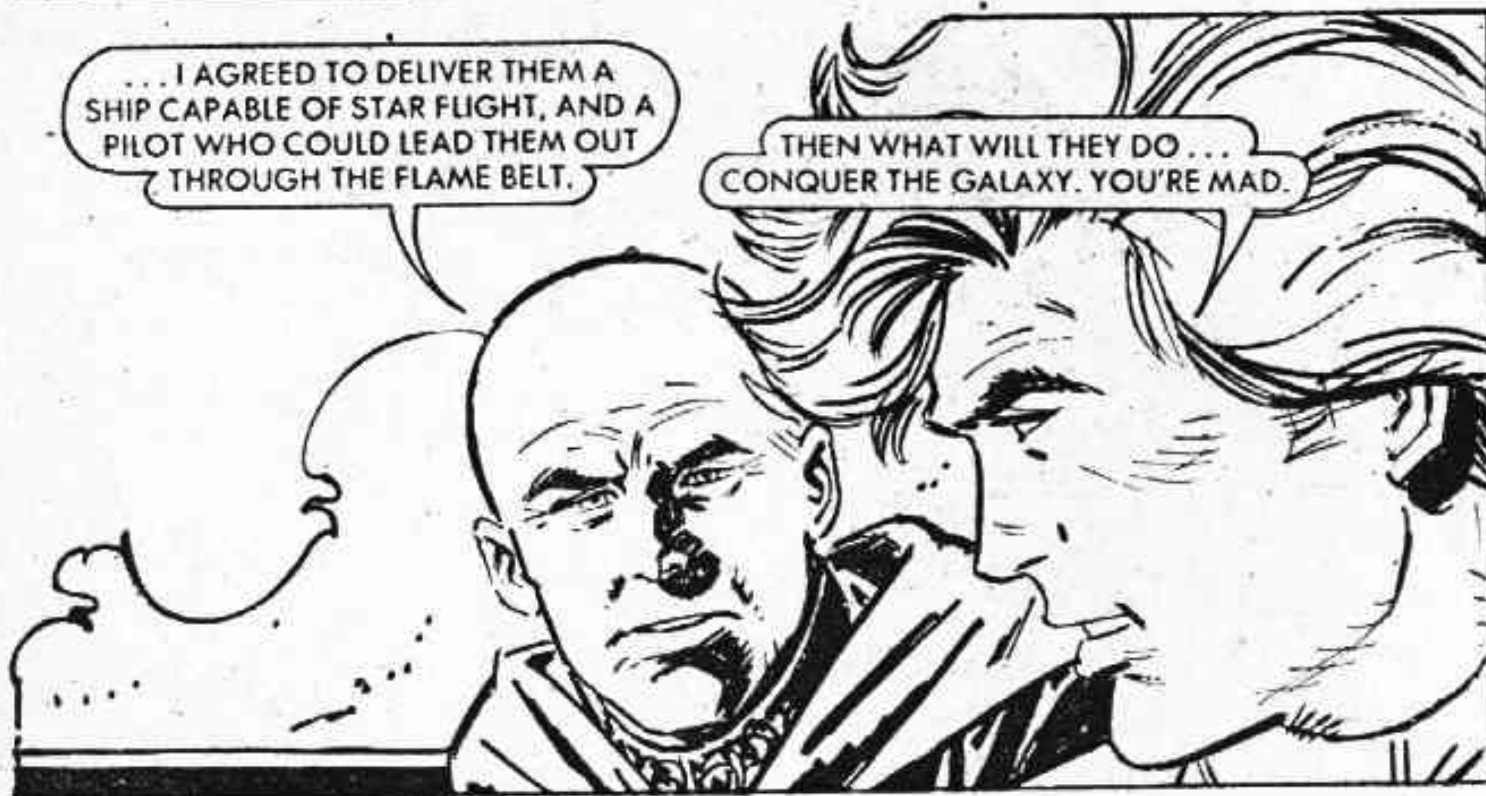


THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, THE DELTANS LOST A WAR WITH A RACE FROM THE ANDROMEDA GALAXY. THE SECRET OF STAR FLIGHT WAS TAKEN FROM THEM AND THEY WERE IMPRISONED ON THIS PLANET BY THE THERMO BELT. A SHORT TIME AGO, I HAPPENED TO PASS THROUGH THIS SECTOR AND PICKED UP ONE OF THEIR SPACE TRANSMISSIONS...



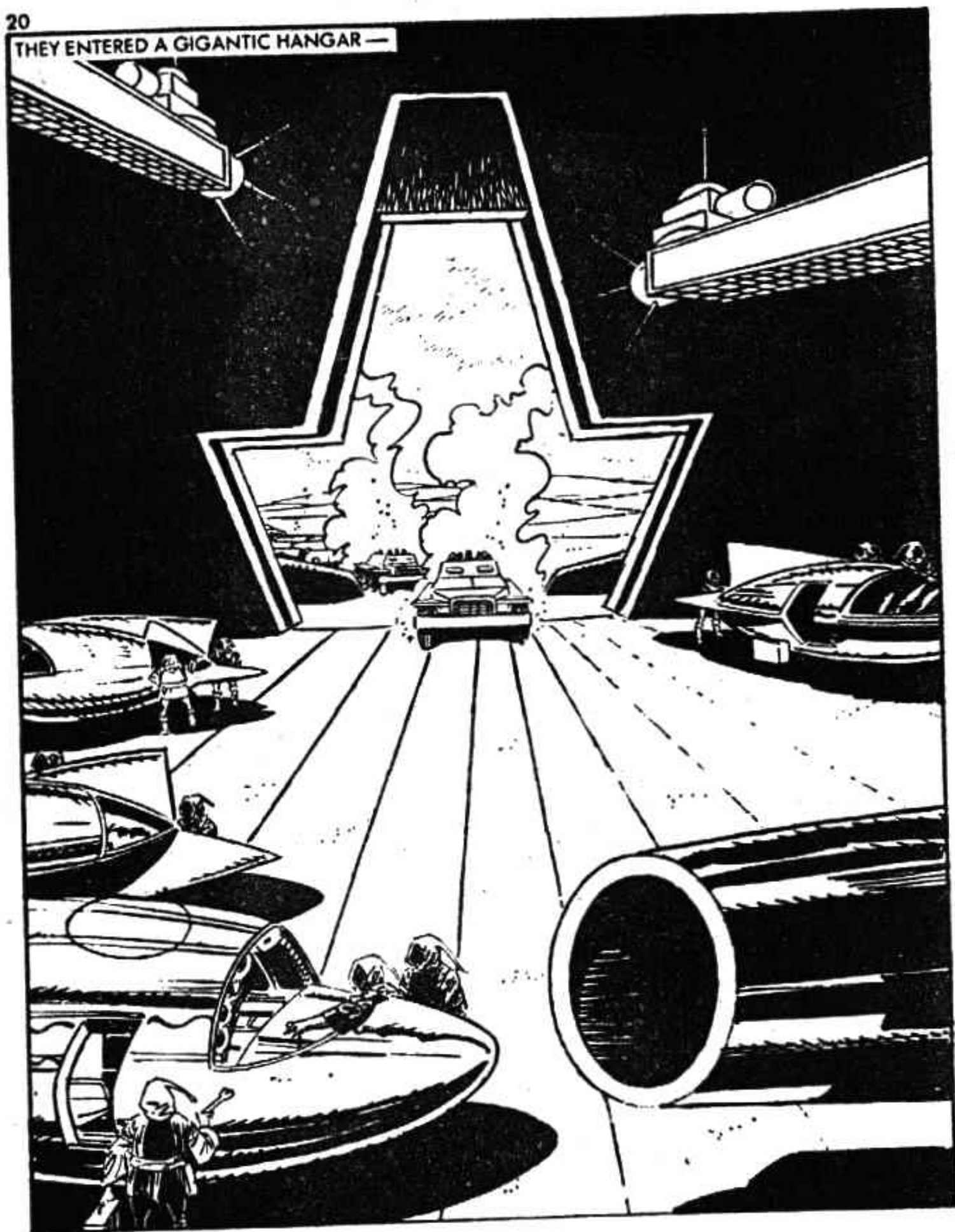
... I AGREED TO DELIVER THEM A SHIP CAPABLE OF STAR FLIGHT, AND A PILOT WHO COULD LEAD THEM OUT THROUGH THE FLAME BELT.

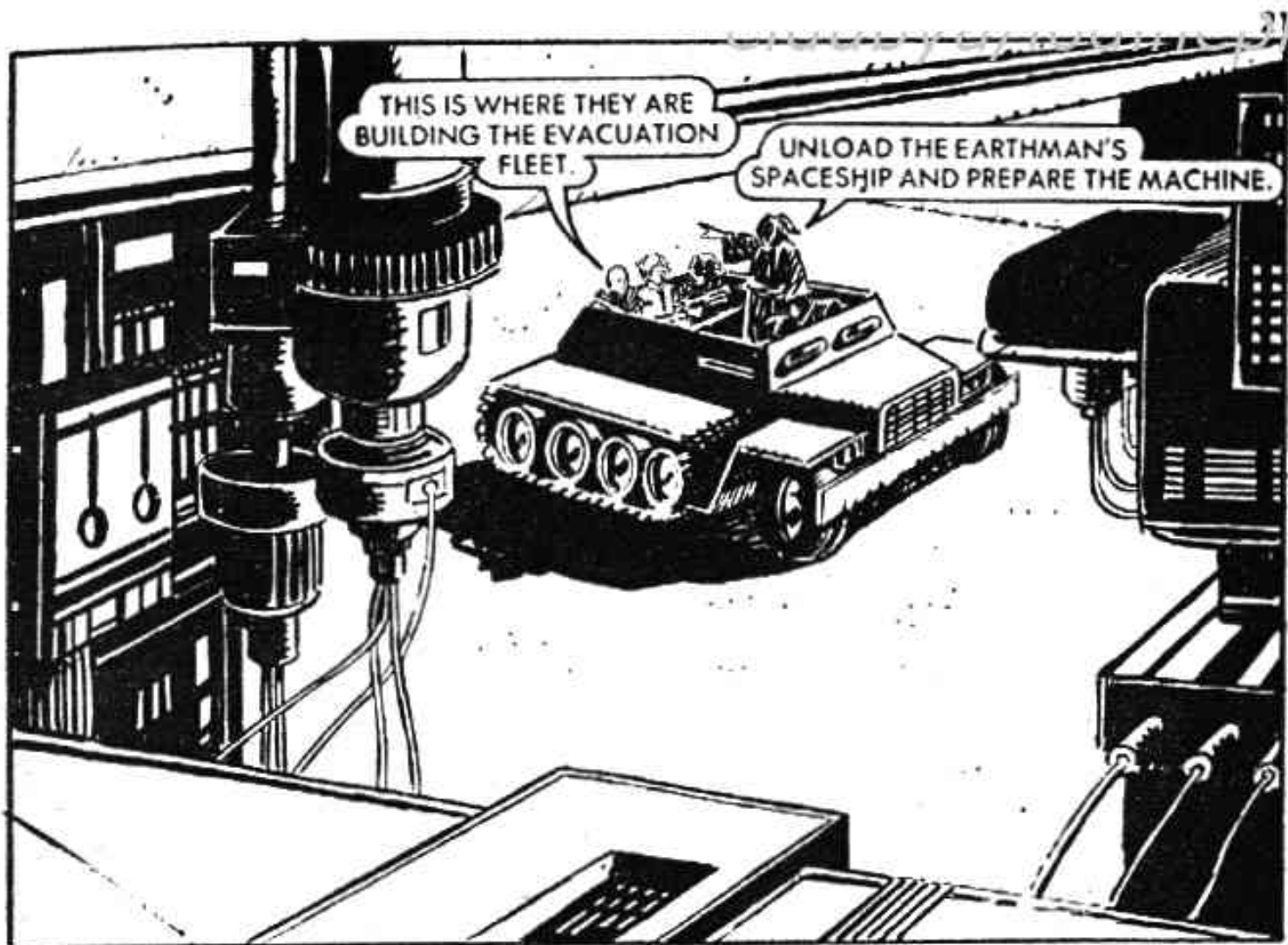
THEN WHAT WILL THEY DO... CONQUER THE GALAXY. YOU'RE MAD.





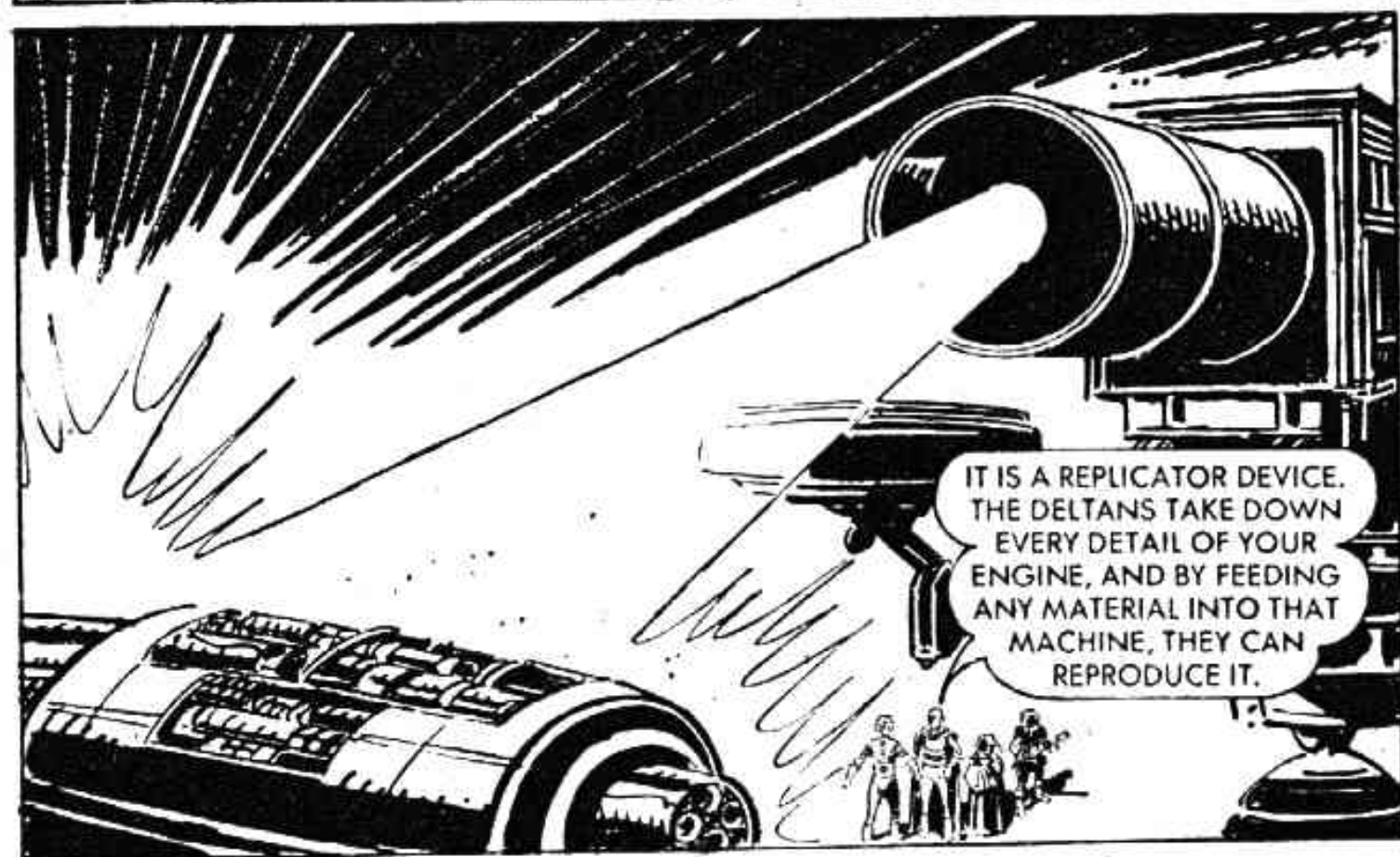
THEY ENTERED A GIGANTIC HANGAR —

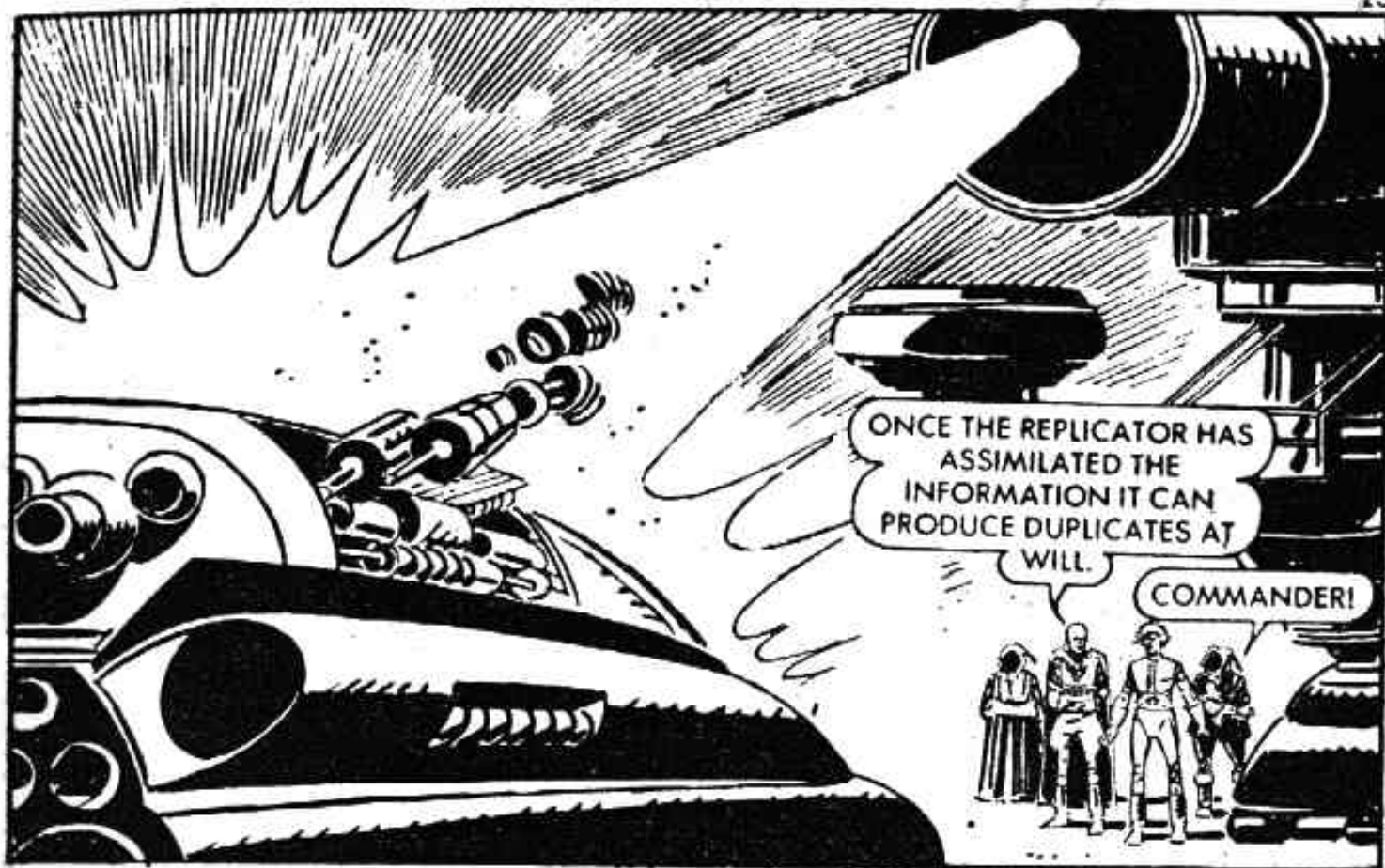




WE ARE READY TO BEGIN.

WE MAY NOT HAVE THE SECRET OF
STARFLIGHT, BUT WE DO HAVE THE SECRET
OF MOLECULAR TRANSFORMATION.





ONCE THE REPLICATOR HAS ASSIMILATED THE INFORMATION IT CAN PRODUCE DUPLICATES AT WILL.

COMMANDER!



THOSE SHIPS ARE TOO HEAVILY ARMED FOR AN EVACUATION FLEET ... I THINK IT'S AN INVASION FORCE!

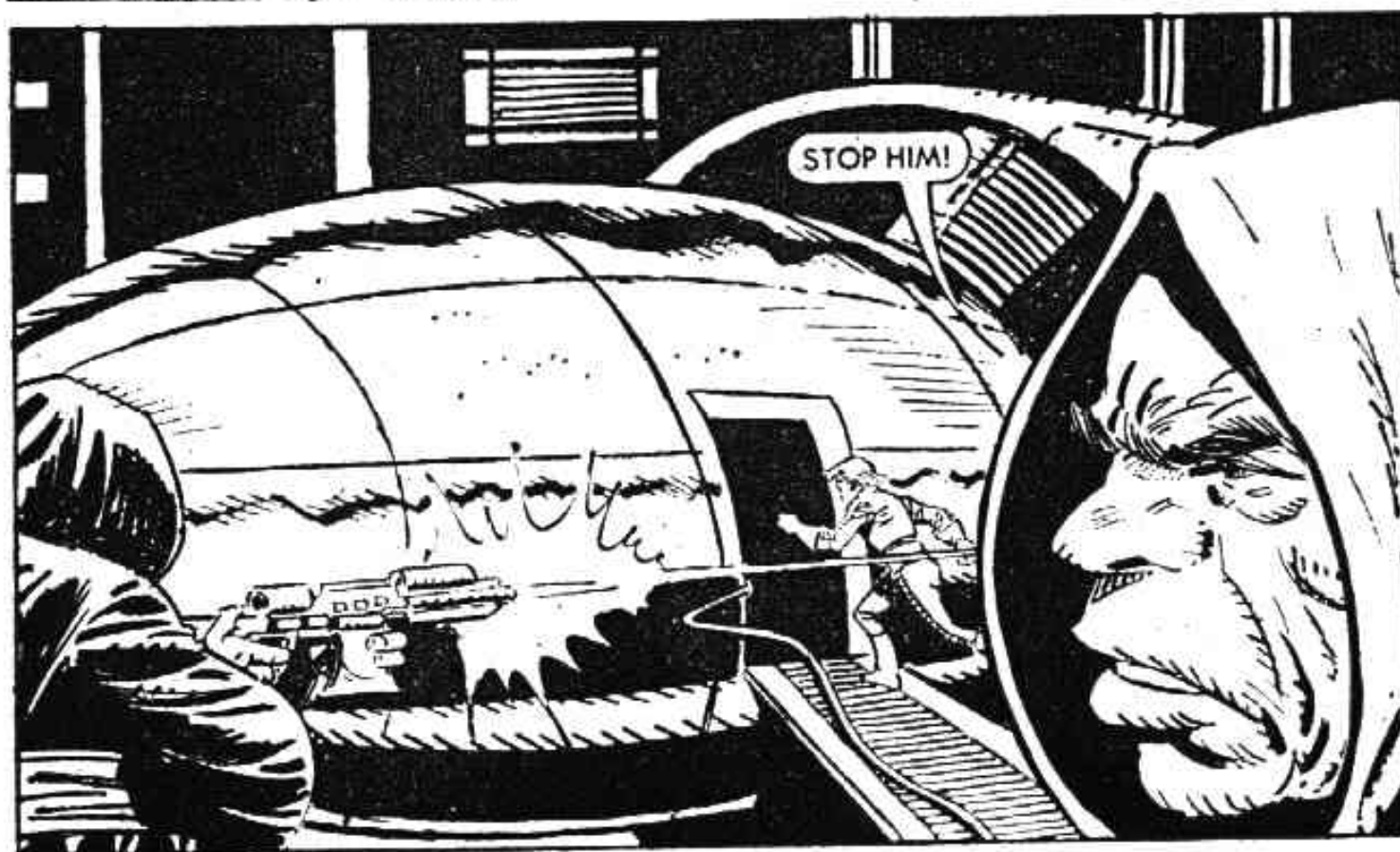
COMMANDER, WE HAVE FOUND A RECORDING OF THE EARTHMAN'S FLIGHT THROUGH THE FLAME BELT IN HIS SHIP'S COMPUTER ...

... WE CAN USE IT TO RETRACE THE
PATH THROUGH THE FORCE FIELD.

IN THAT CASE YOU
WON'T BE NEEDING ME!



STOP HIM!



KRIS RUSHED INTO A REPLICA OF HIS OWN CRAFT —

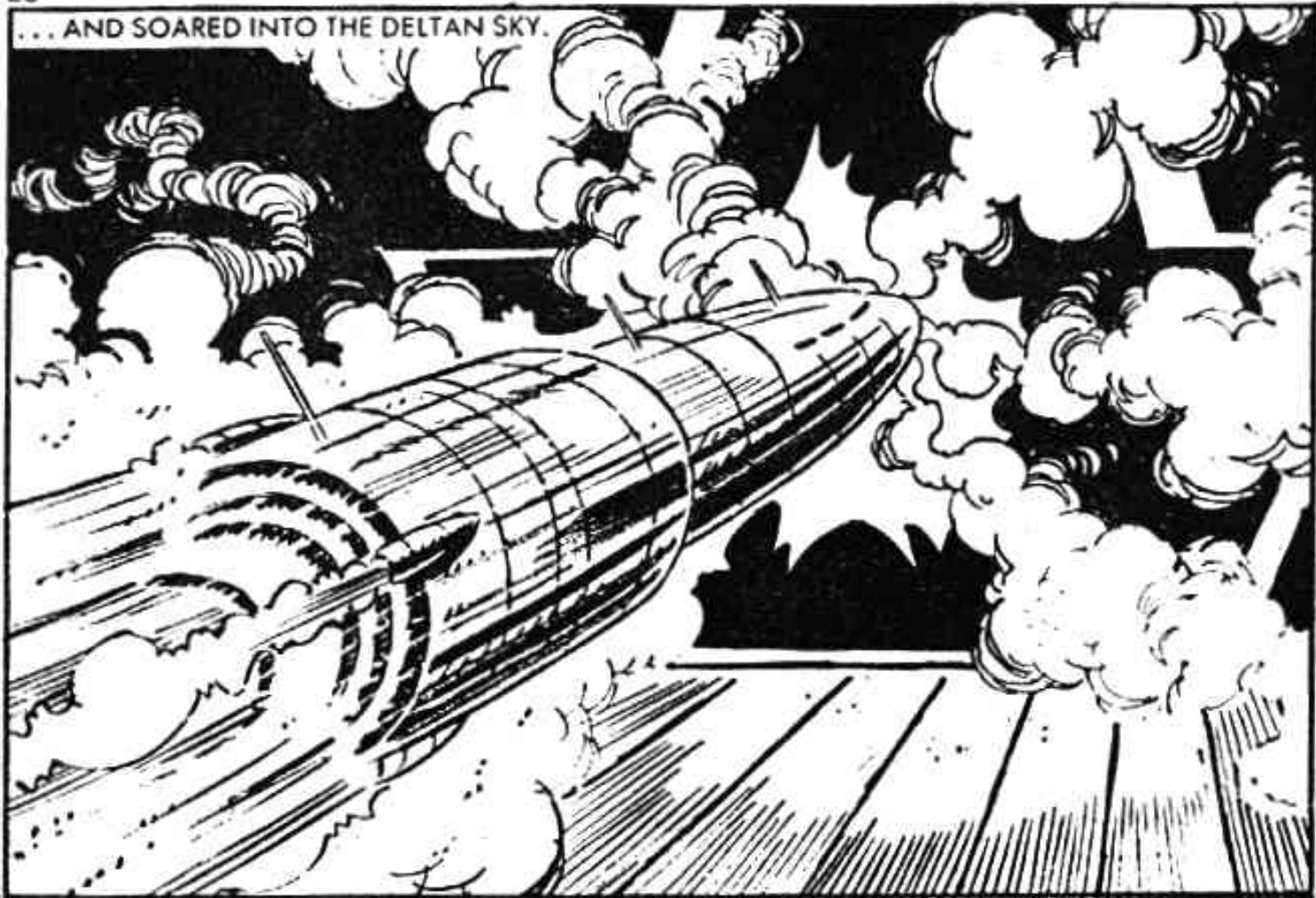
I'VE GOT TO GET
CLEAR OF DELTA...



THE SPACESHIP CRASHED THROUGH THE HANGAR DOORS...



... AND SOARED INTO THE DELTAN SKY.

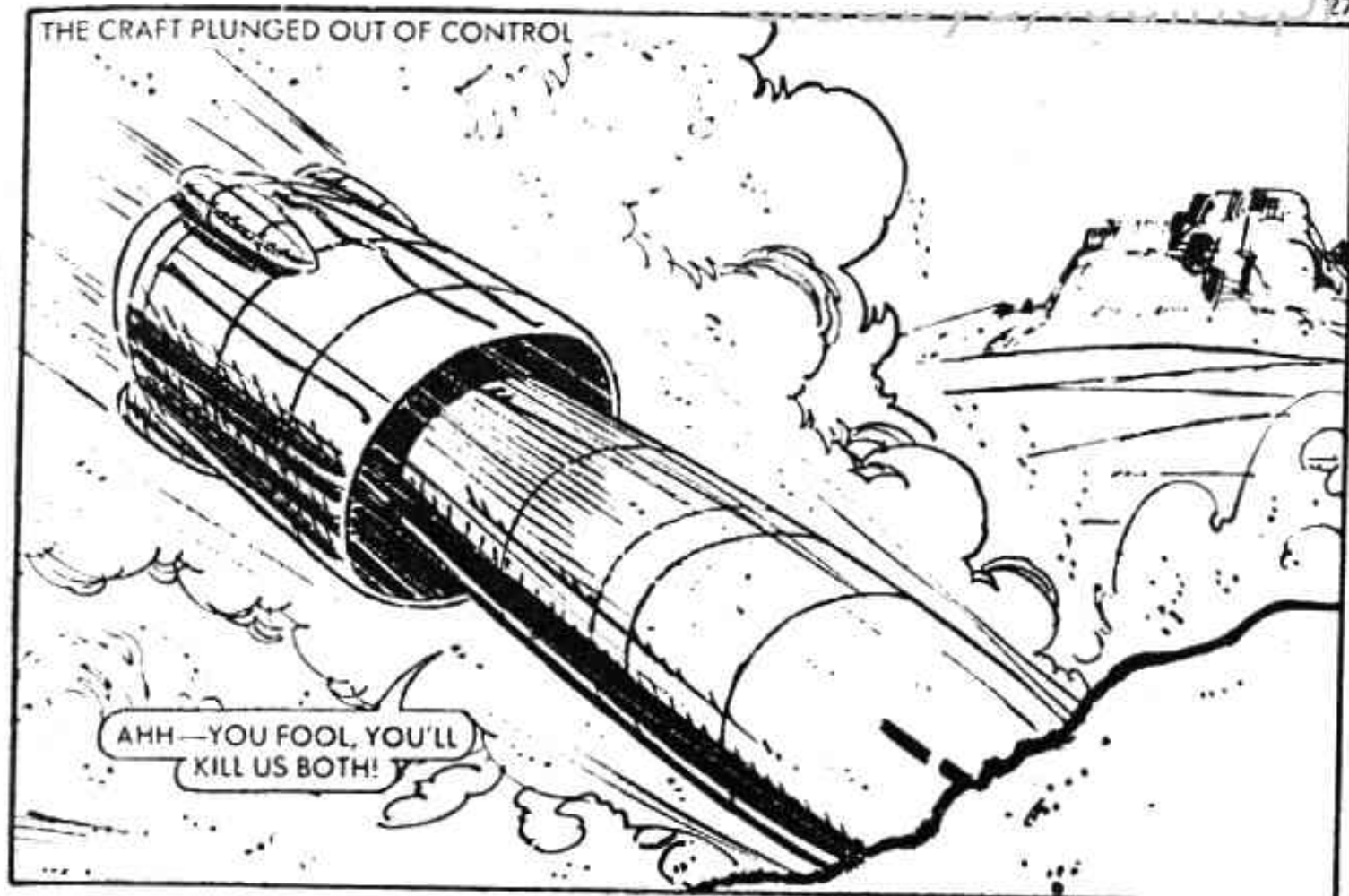


BUT KRIS HAD AN UNWANTED PASSENGER.

MINIMAL IMPACT DAMAGE.
WHAT THE ...

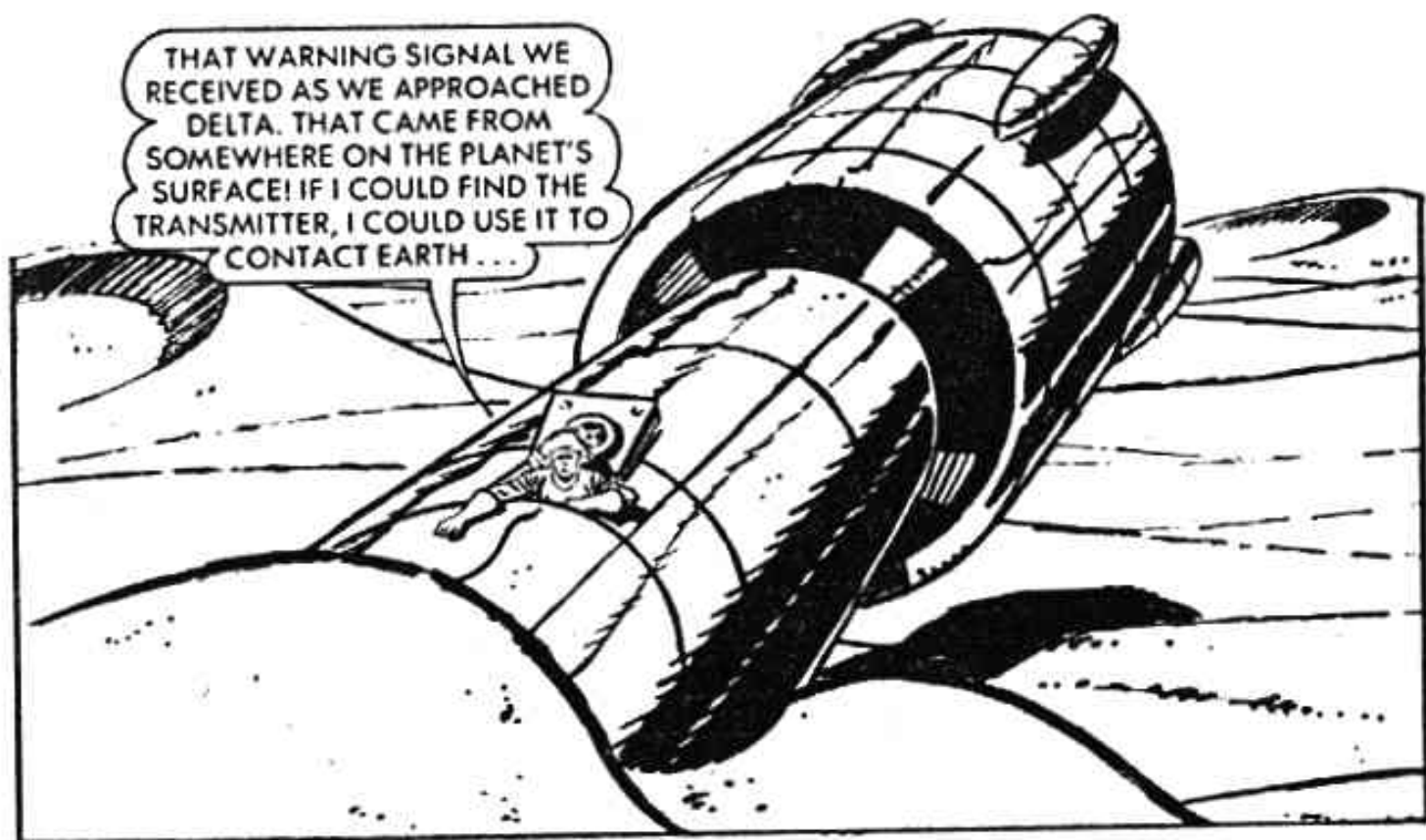


THE CRAFT PLUNGED OUT OF CONTROL



THE IMPACT KILLED HIM.

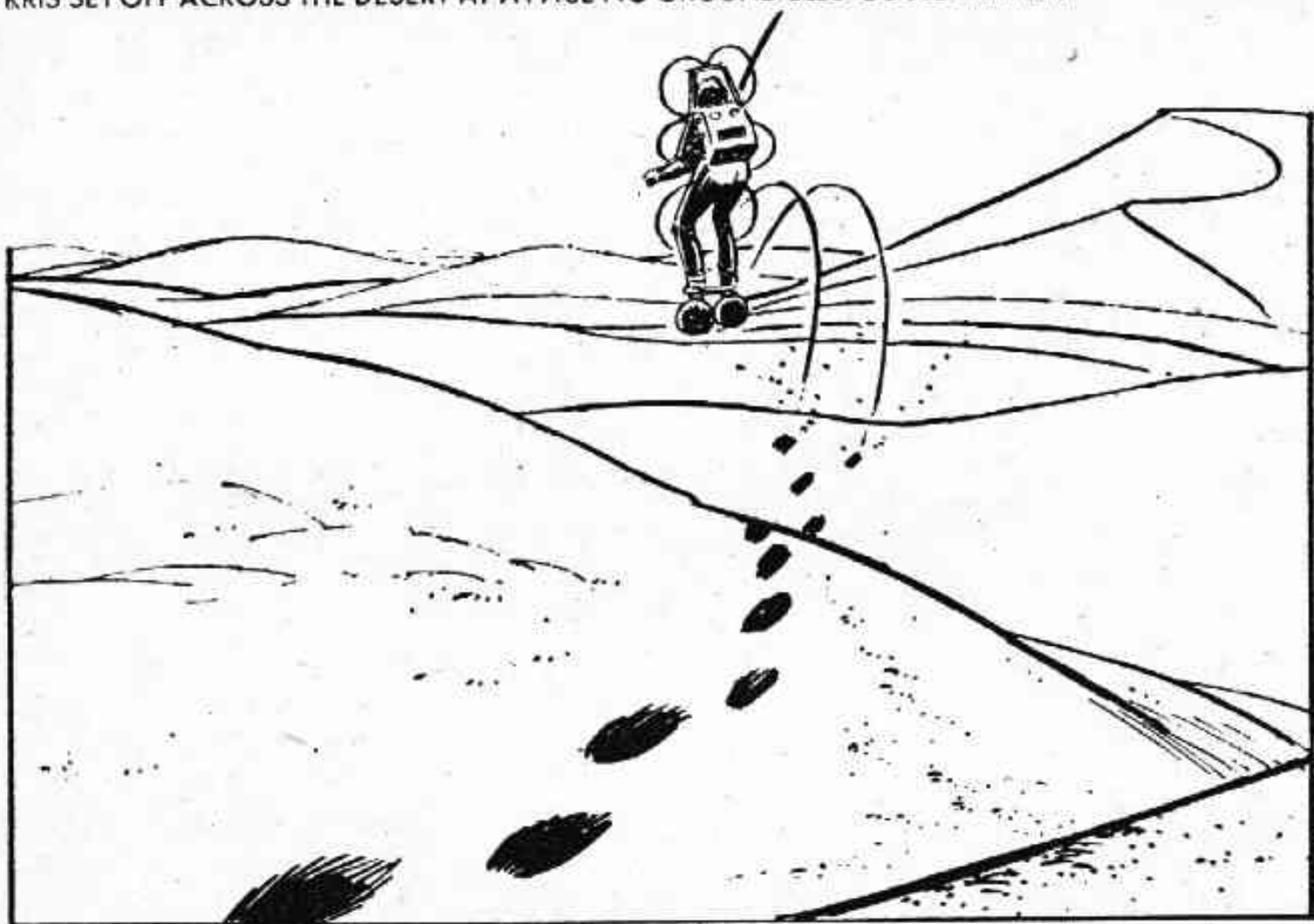




FROM THE EXPLORER BAY, KRIS TOOK A POWER-FRAME — A MECHANICAL EXOSKELETON DESIGNED TO GREATLY INCREASE AN ASTRONAUT'S STRENGTH AND CAPABILITIES IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT.



KRIS SET OFF ACROSS THE DESERT AT A PACE NO GROUND SLED COULD MATCH.



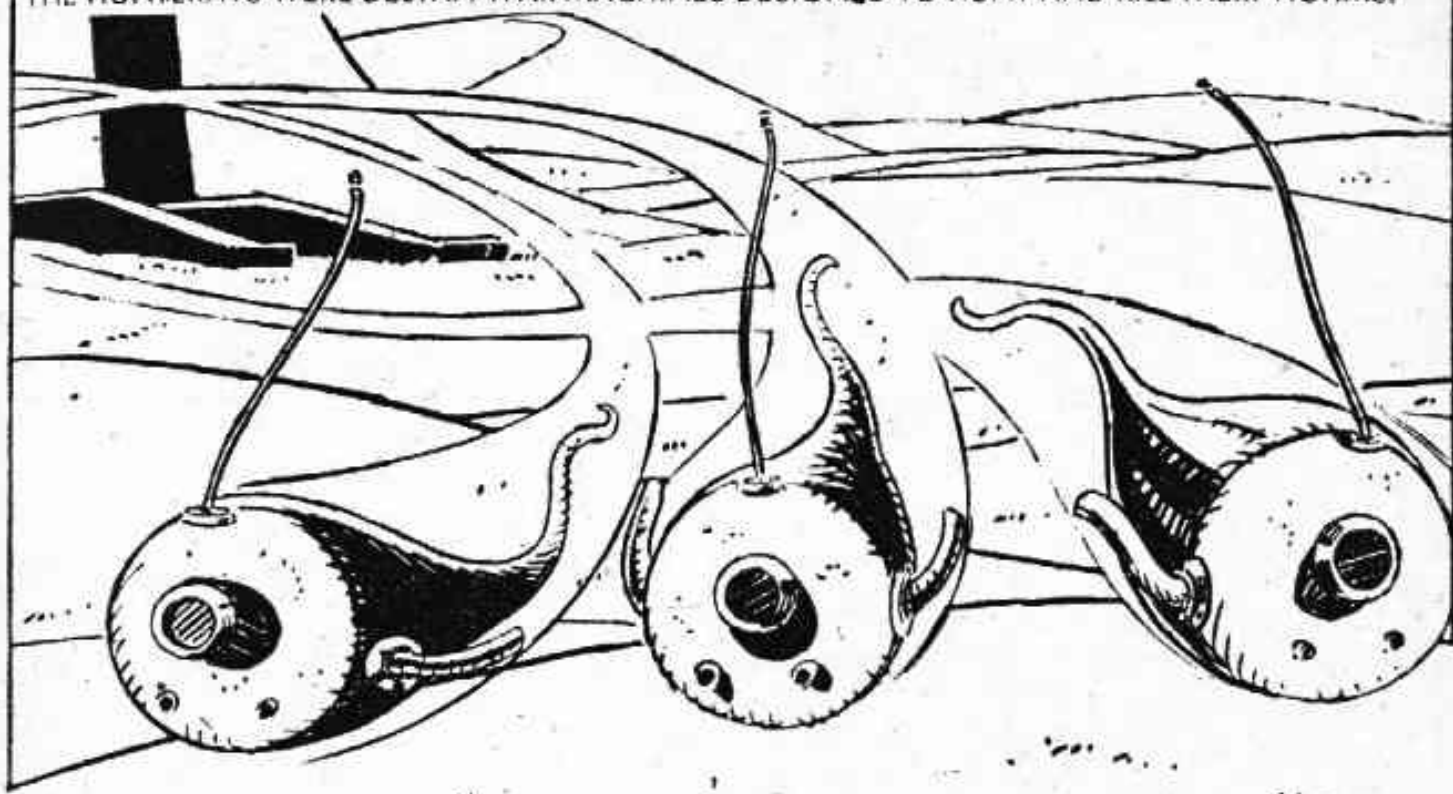
AT THE DELTAN BASE —

OUR OBSERVERS REPORT THAT THE
EARTH SHIP HAS COME DOWN IN
THE DESERT.

DESPATCH THE HUNTERAYS.
HE MUST NOT ESCAPE US.



THE HUNTERAYS WERE DELTAN WAR MACHINES DESIGNED TO HUNT AND KILL THEIR VICTIMS.

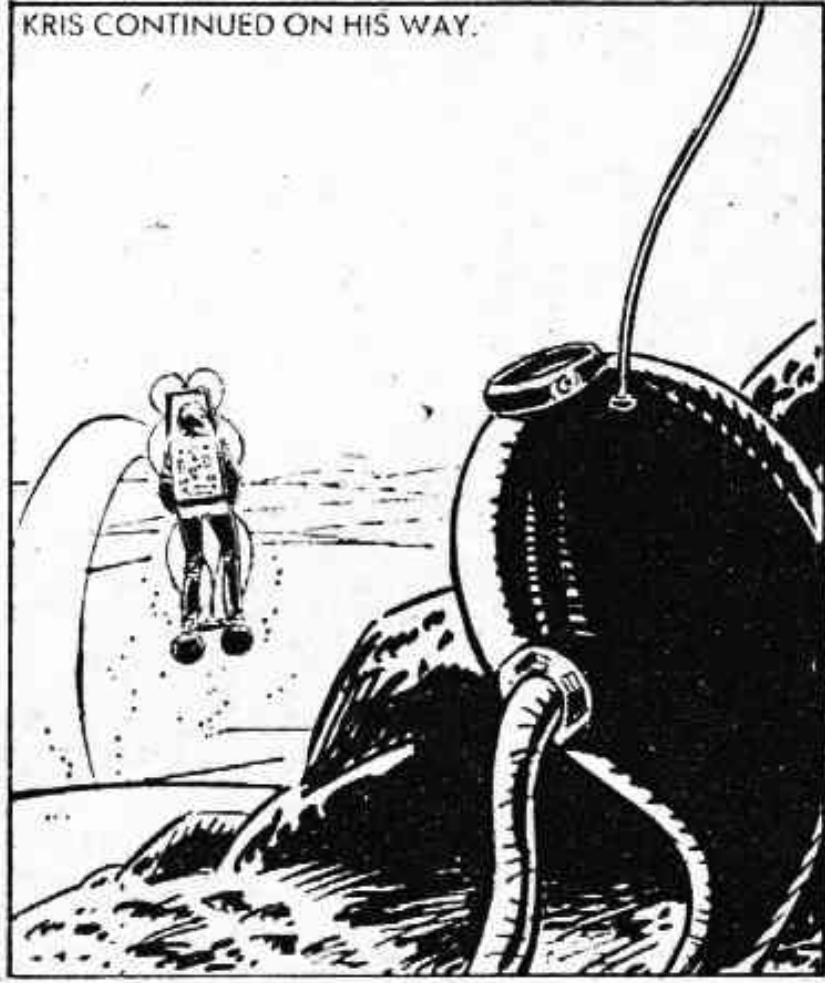


WITHIN TWO HOURS KRIS REACHED THE FOOTHILLS.

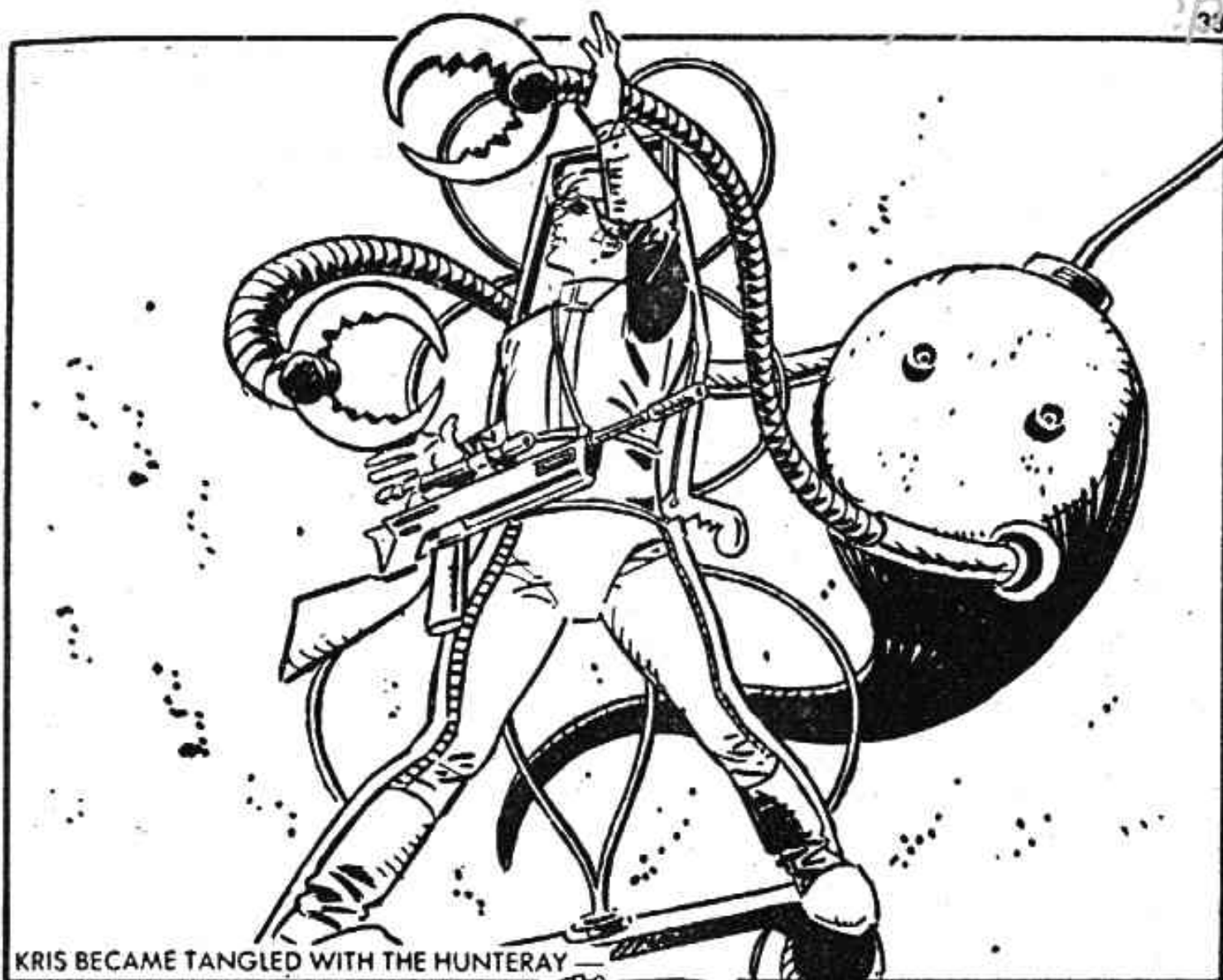


ACCORDING TO MY RECKONING, I'M ABOUT 20 MILES FROM THE LOCATION OF THE TRANSMITTER.

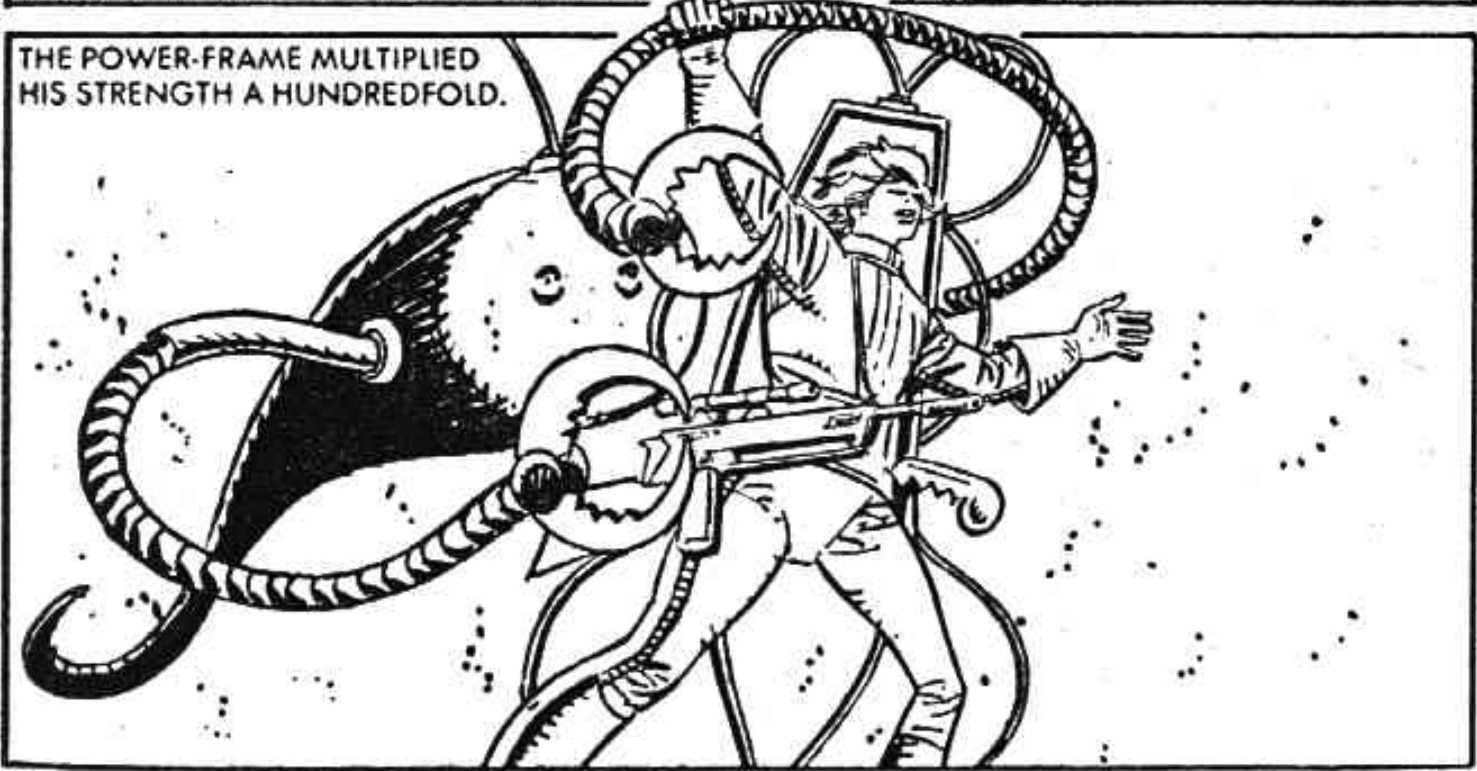
KRIS CONTINUED ON HIS WAY.



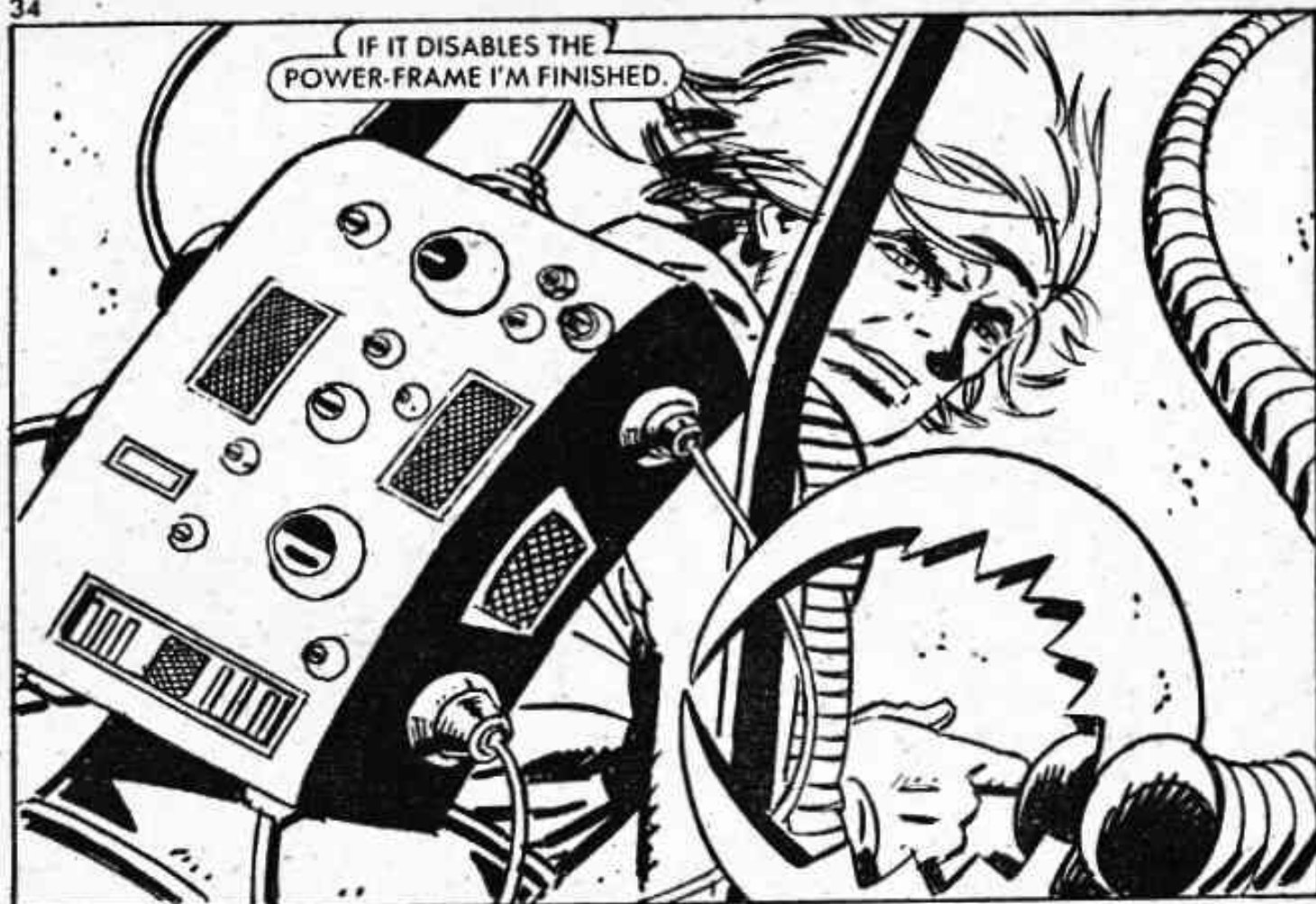




KRIS BECAME TANGLED WITH THE HUNTERAY —



THE POWER-FRAME MULTIPLIED HIS STRENGTH A HUNDREDFOLD.



KRIS TWISTED IN THE HUNTERAY'S GRASP —



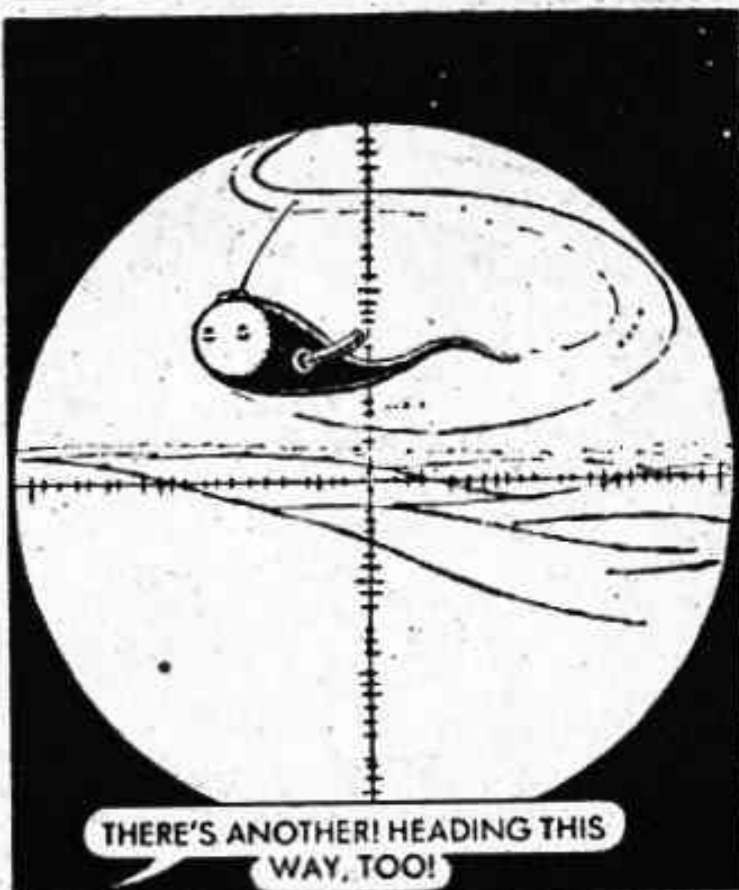
AT THE DELTAN CITY, THE MONITOR SCREEN SUDDENLY WENT BLANK.

THE HUNTERAY NO LONGER RESPONDS!

YOU FOOL! IT MUST HAVE BLOWN UP! I WANTED THE EARTHMAN ALIVE. SEND IN THE SECOND HUNTERAY TO COLLECT THE BODY.

BUT KRIS WAS UNHARMED...

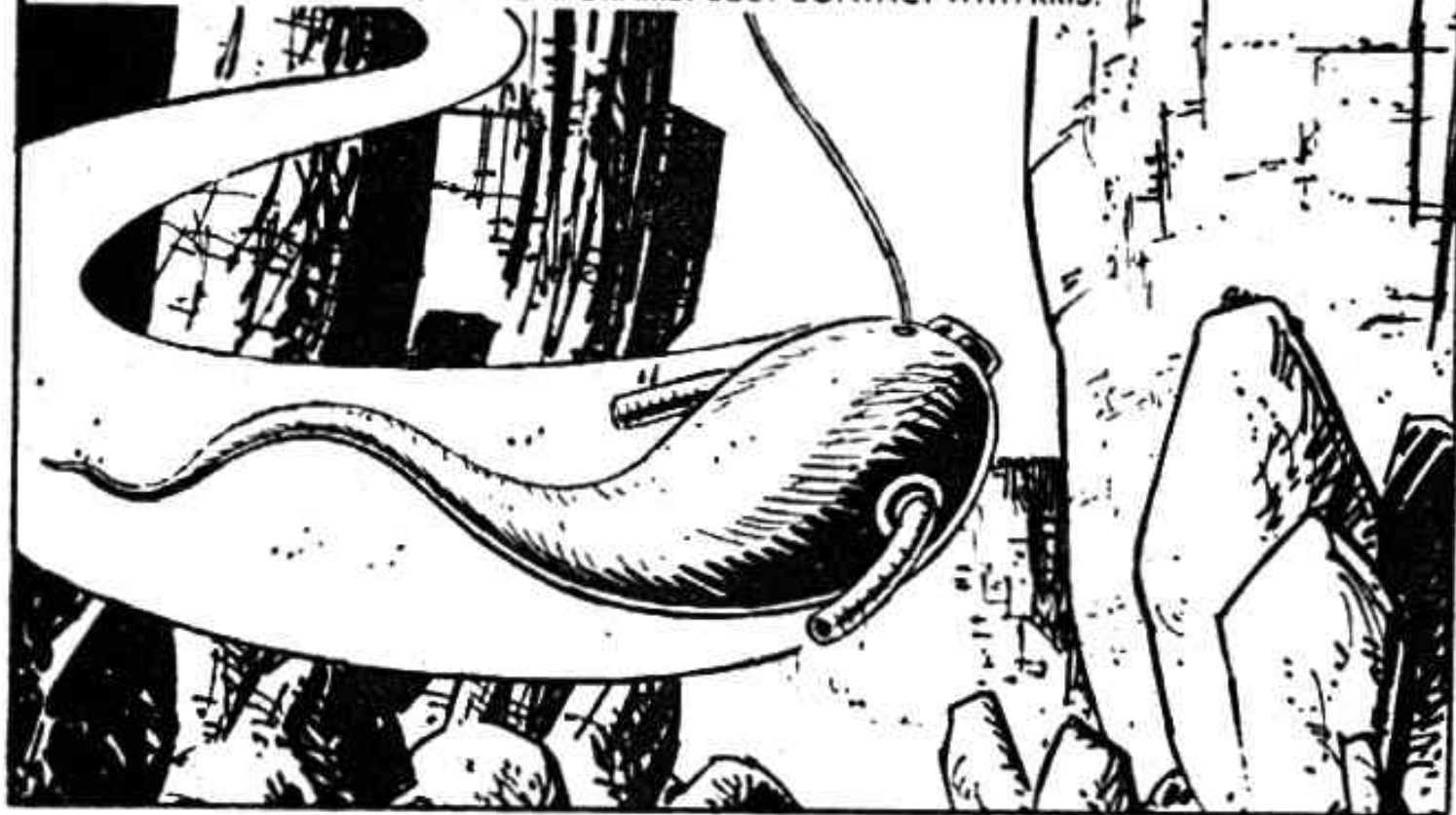
THE BLAST MUST HAVE DESTROYED THE ROBOT'S CENTRE. I WONDER IF THERE ARE ANY MORE OF THESE MECHANICAL PREDATORS FLYING AROUND.



THERE'S ANOTHER! HEADING THIS WAY, TOO!



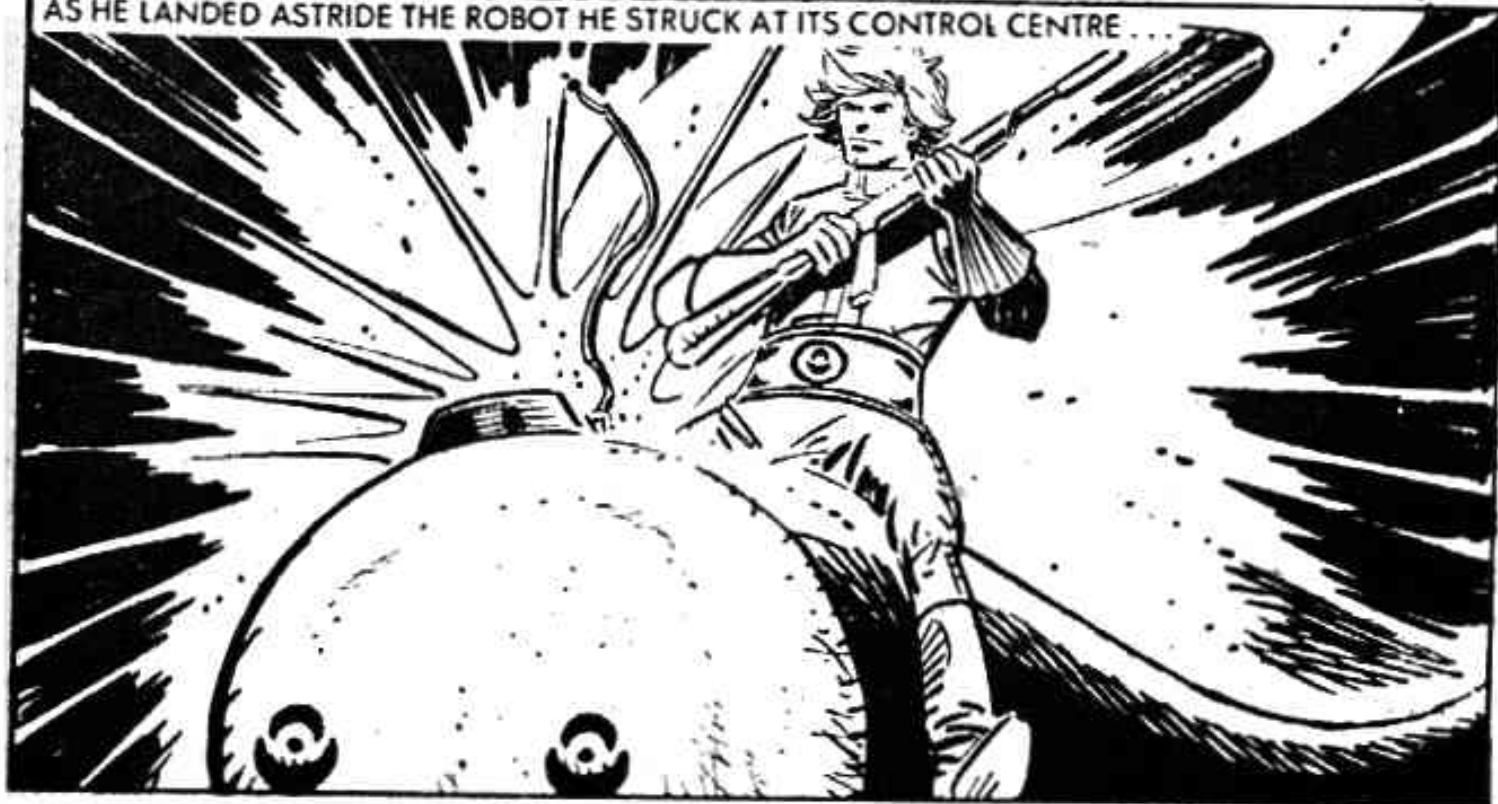
THE HUNTERAY CLOSED IN, BUT TEMPORARILY LOST CONTACT WITH KRIS.



AS THE HUNTERAY DREW LEVEL, KRIS LEAPT FROM HIS HIDING PLACE.



AS HE LANDED ASTRIDE THE ROBOT HE STRUCK AT ITS CONTROL CENTRE...





KRIS ABANDONED THE HUNTERAY AND CONTINUED ON FOOT.

IT'S NO GOOD ... THE
STORM'S GETTING WORSE.




I'LL HAVE TO TAKE SHELTER
UNTIL IT BLOWS OVER.



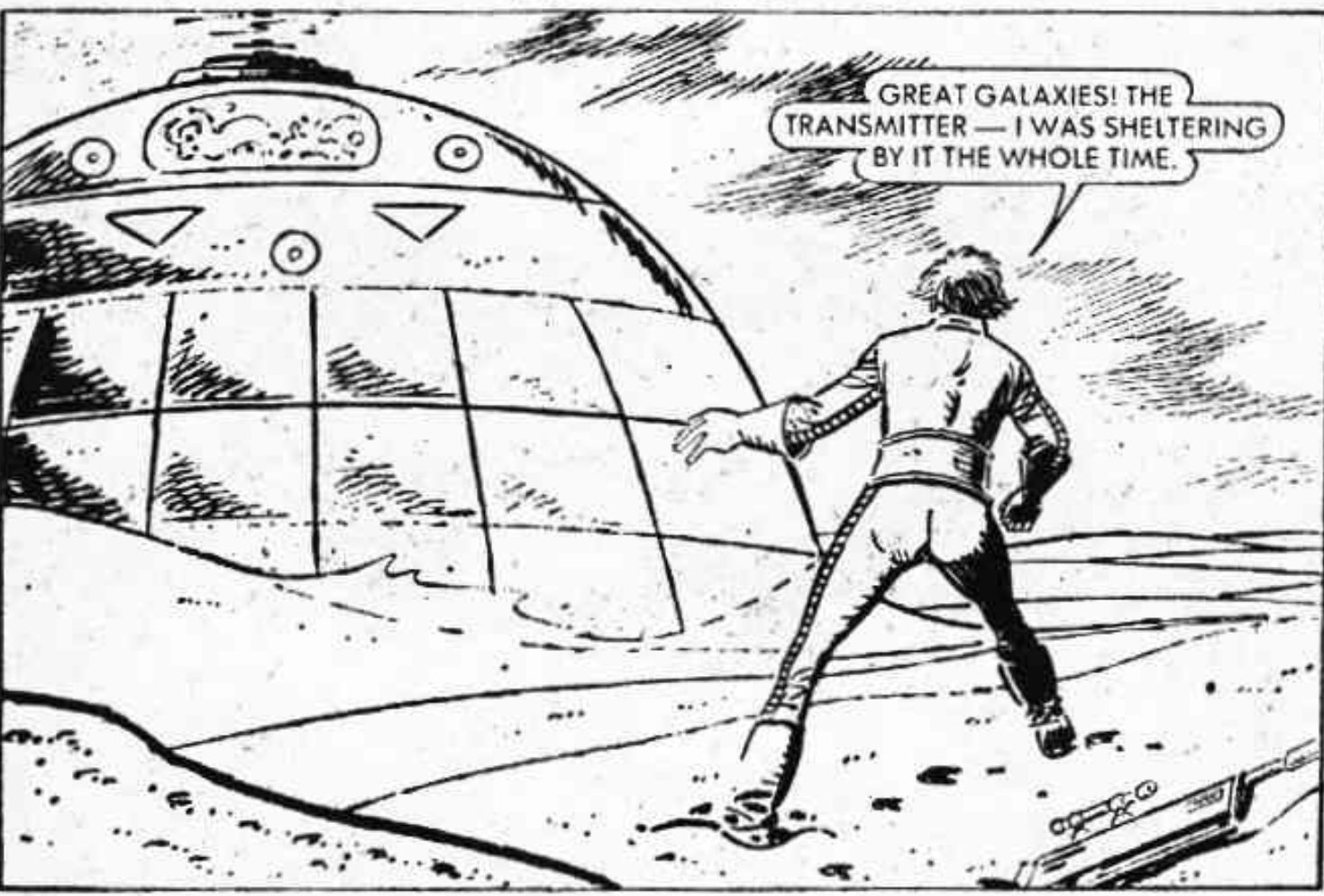
KRIS HUDDLED DOWN BESIDE A LARGE ROCK FORMATION TO WAIT OUT THE STORM.

THE STORM LASTED SEVERAL HOURS.

IT'S OVER. ANY LONGER
AND I'D HAVE BEEN SUFFOCATED ...

A black and white comic book panel. A man in a flight suit is running away from a large, dark, grid-patterned structure that resembles a giant's foot or a large piece of machinery. The man is looking back over his shoulder. The background shows a desolate, rocky landscape under a stormy sky.

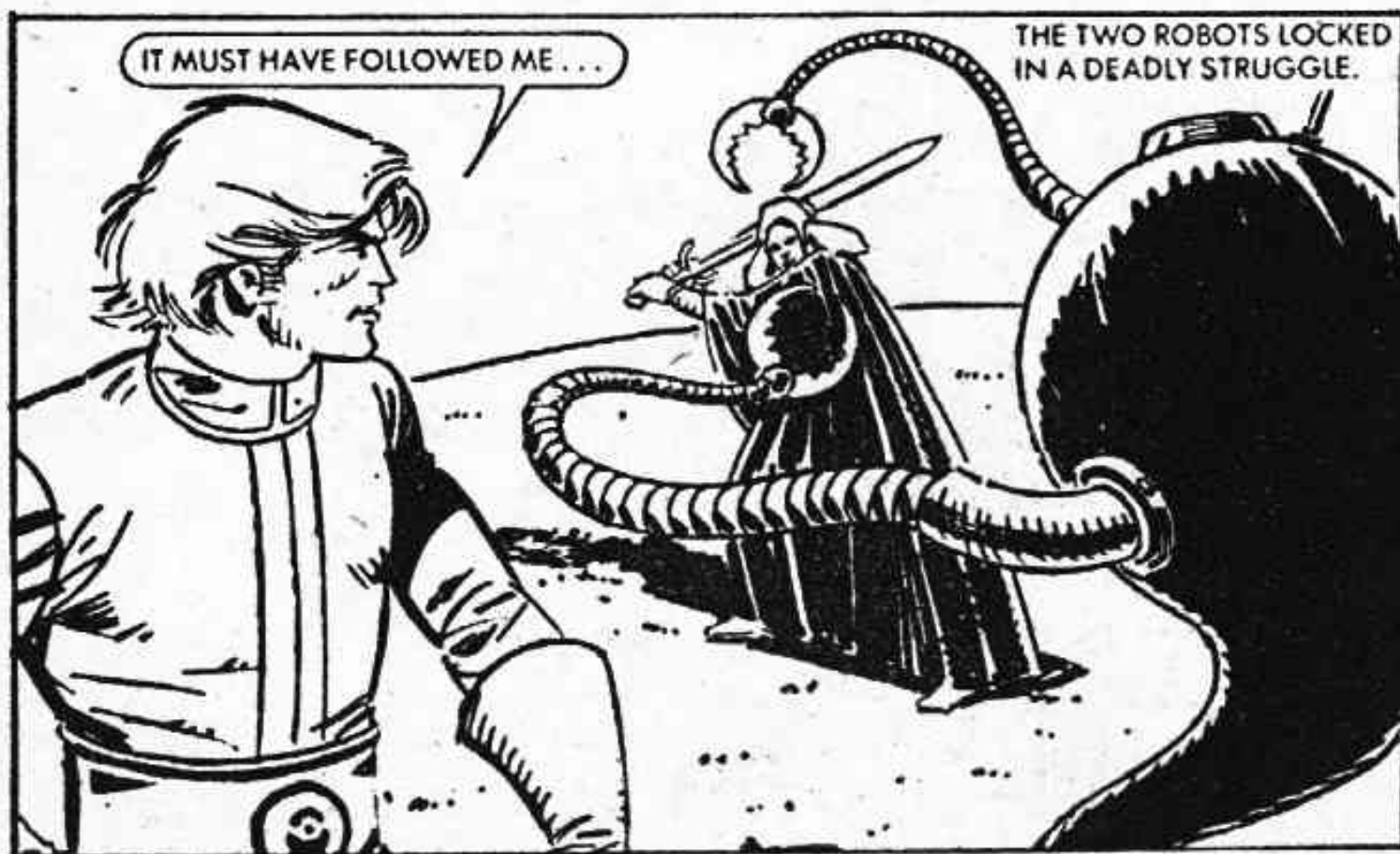
GREAT GALAXIES! THE
TRANSMITTER — I WAS SHELTERING
BY IT THE WHOLE TIME.

A black and white comic book panel. The same man in a flight suit is running towards a large, dome-shaped structure with a grid pattern. He is looking back over his shoulder. The background shows a desolate, rocky landscape under a stormy sky.

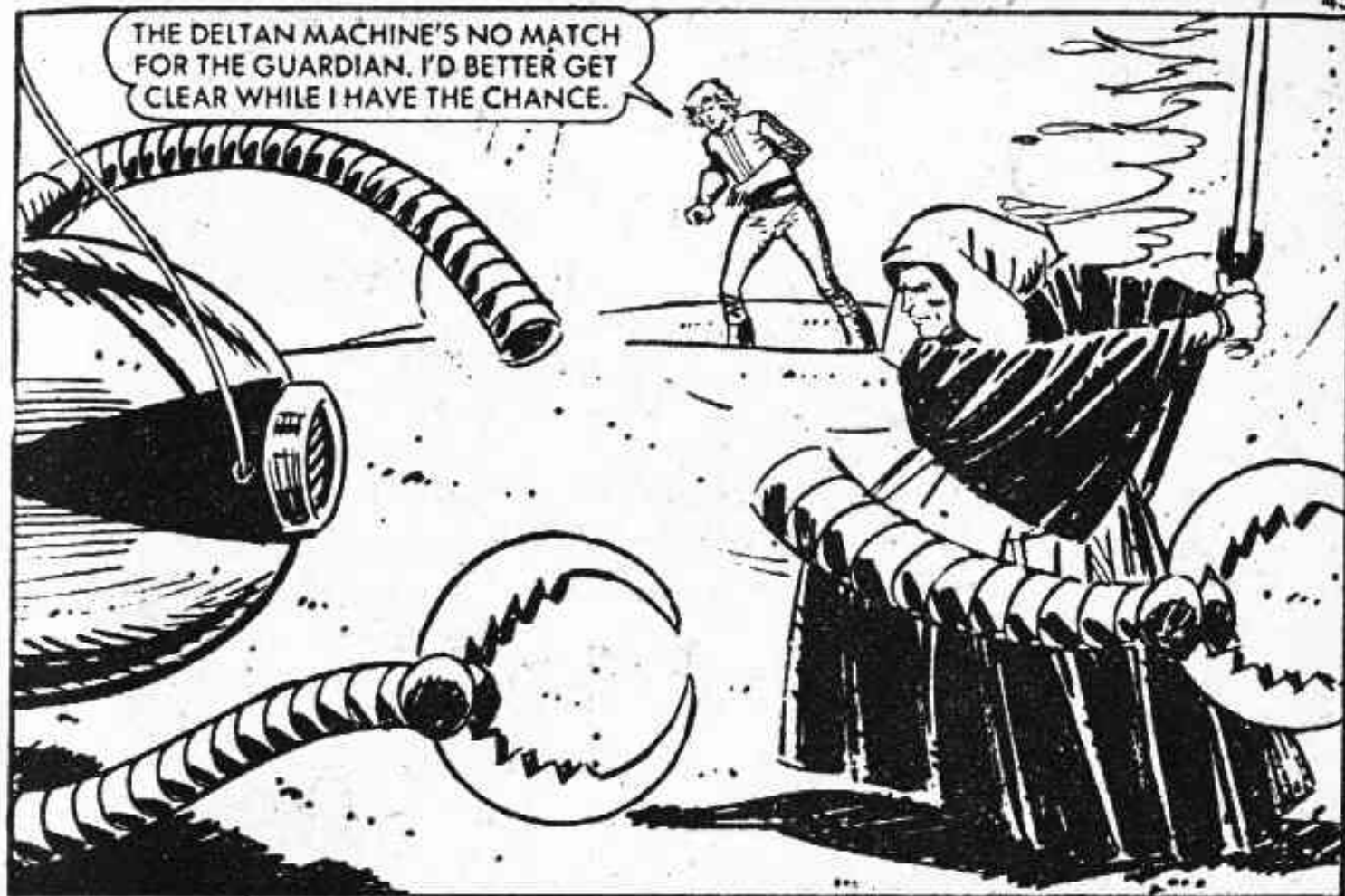








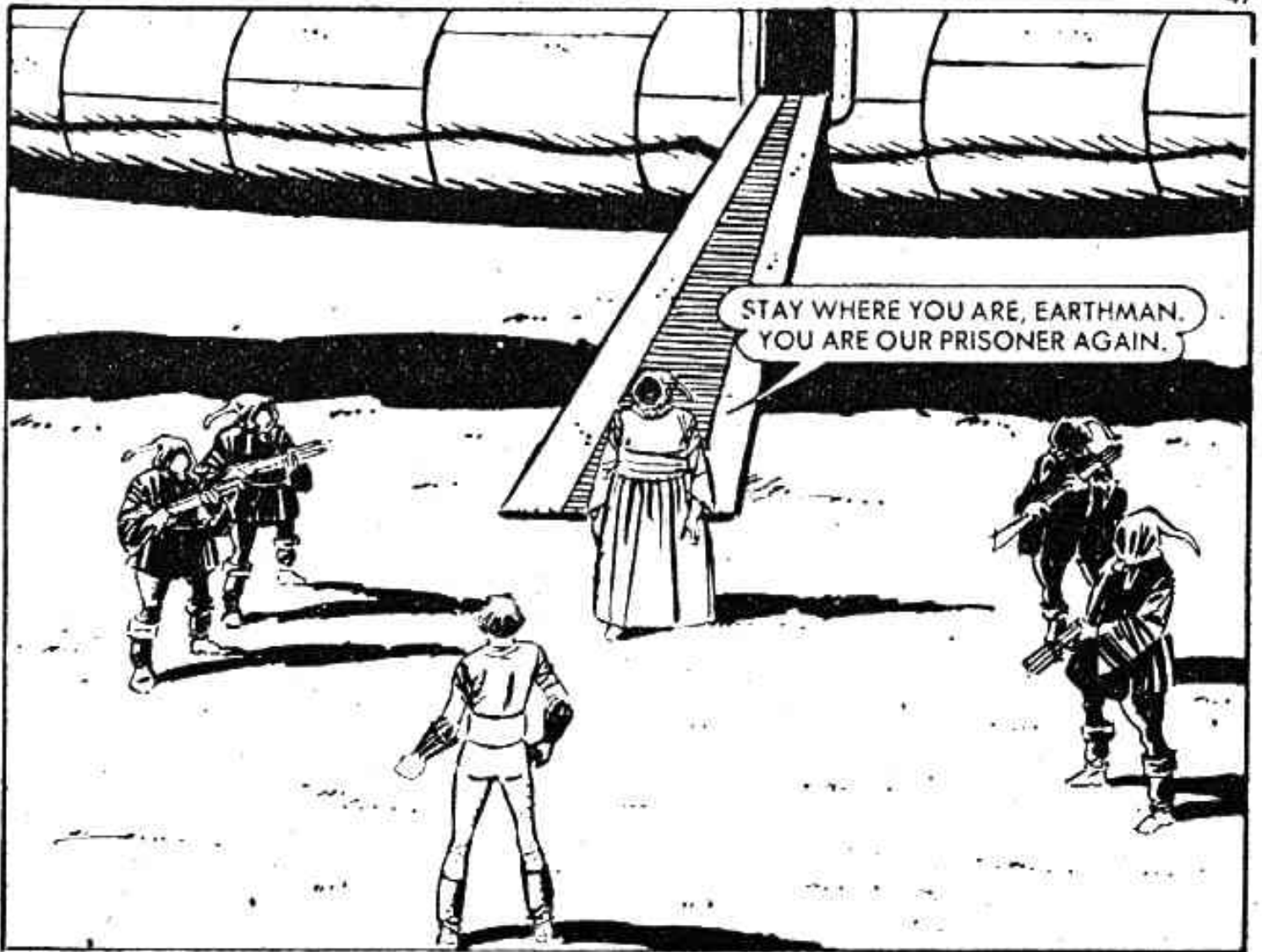
THE DELTAN MACHINE'S NO MATCH FOR THE GUARDIAN. I'D BETTER GET CLEAR WHILE I HAVE THE CHANCE.

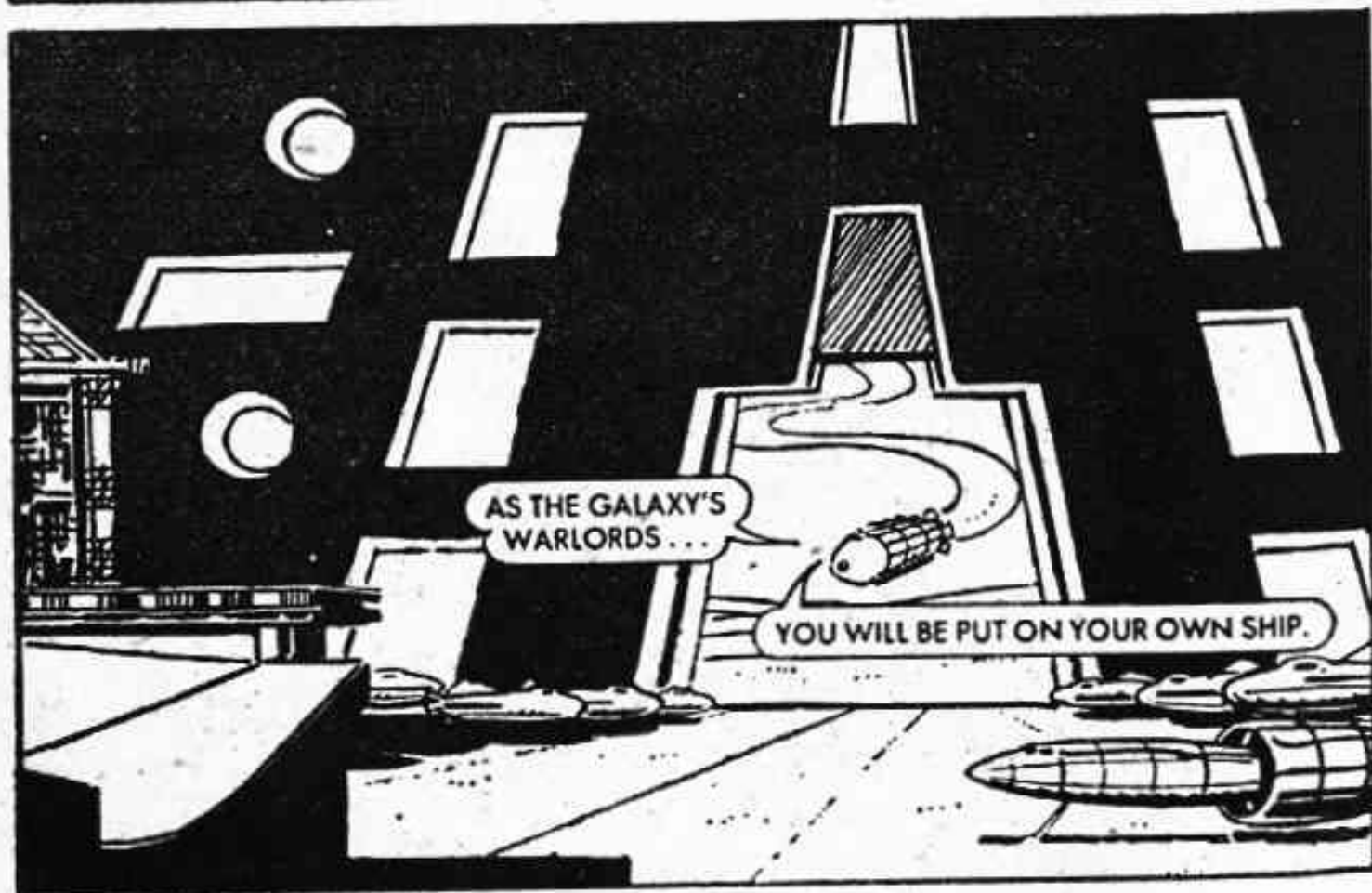
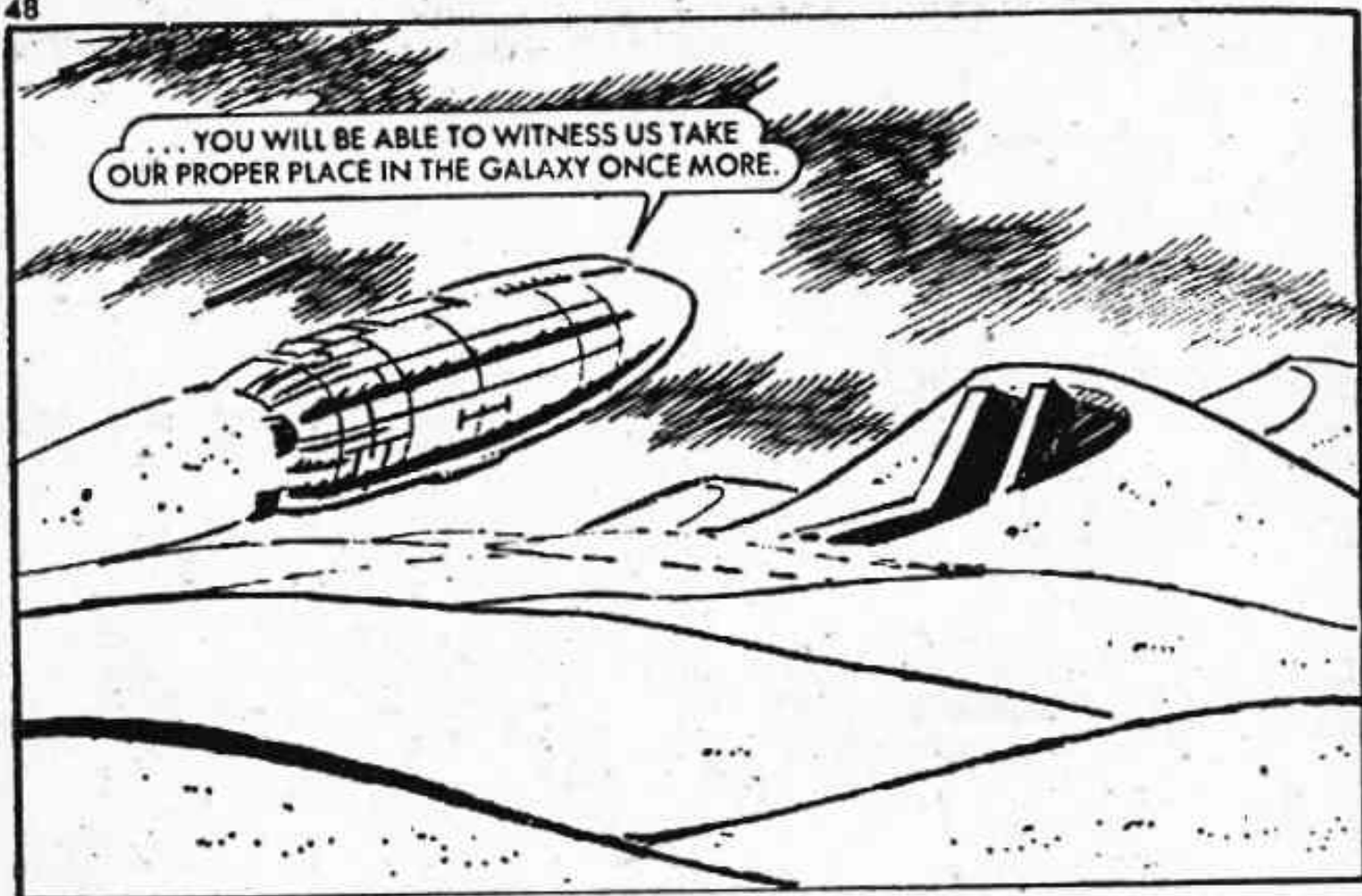


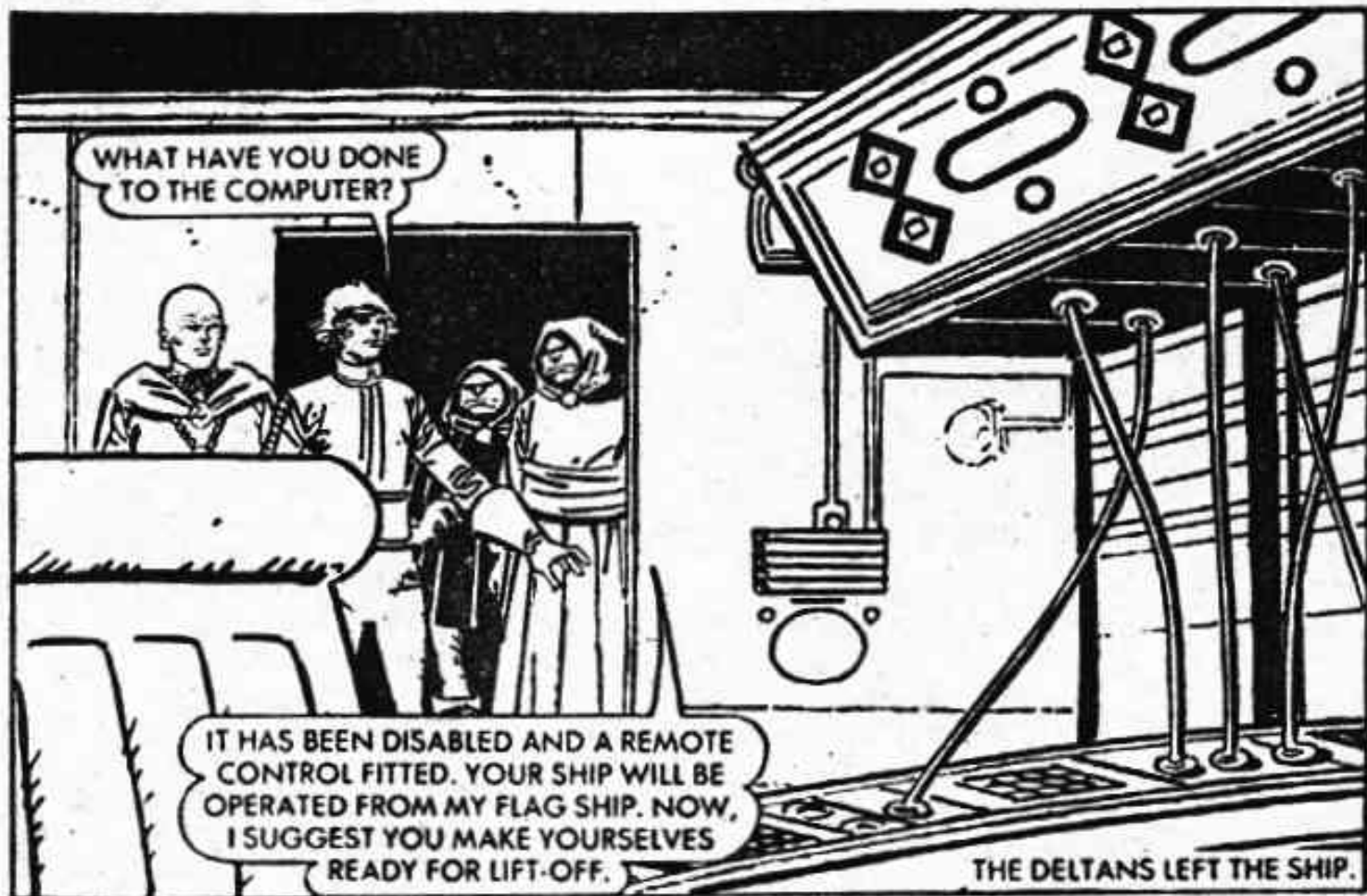
SUDDENLY A LASER BEAM STABBED DOWN FROM THE SKY, DESTROYING THE MONITOR.

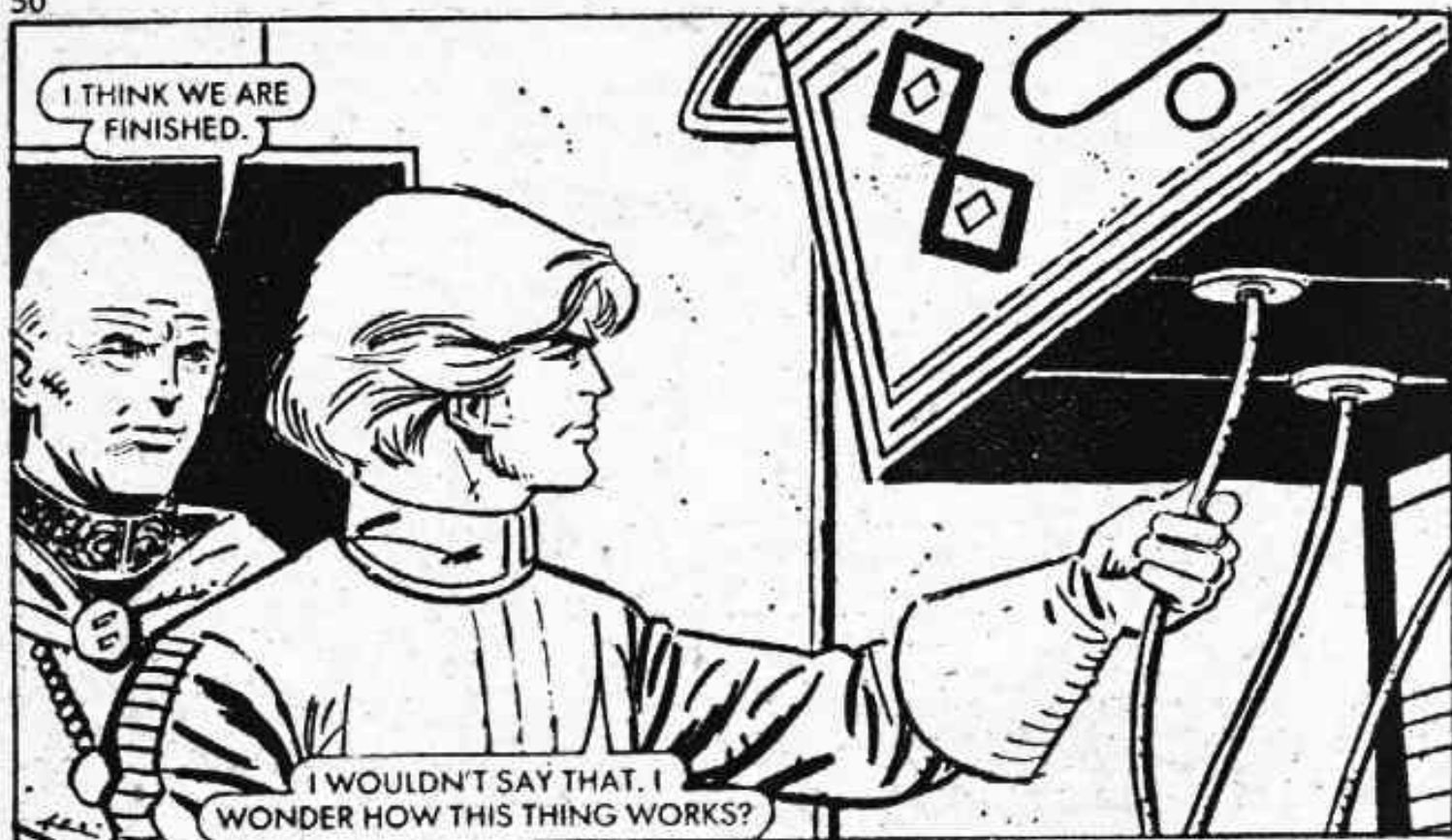




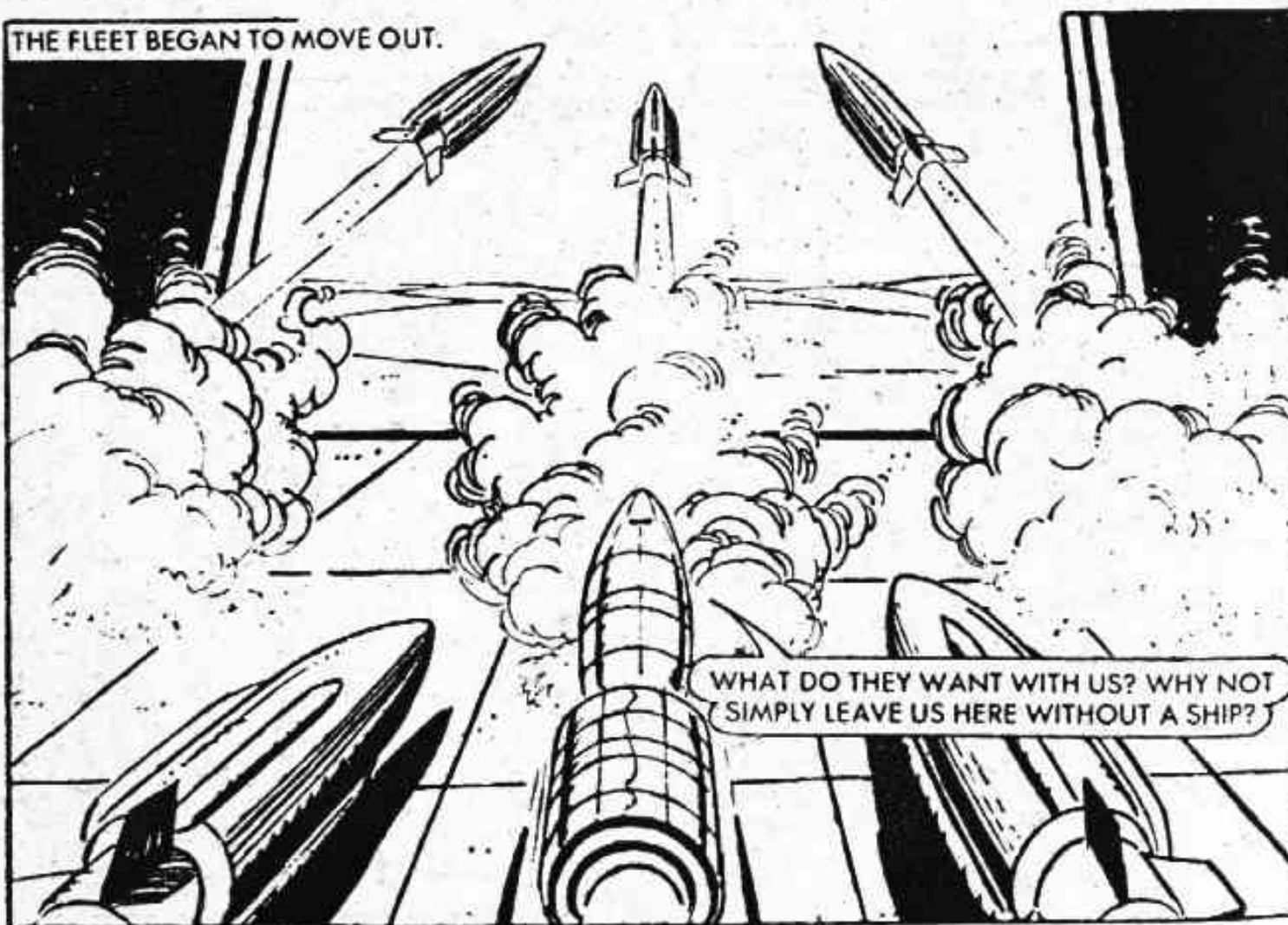








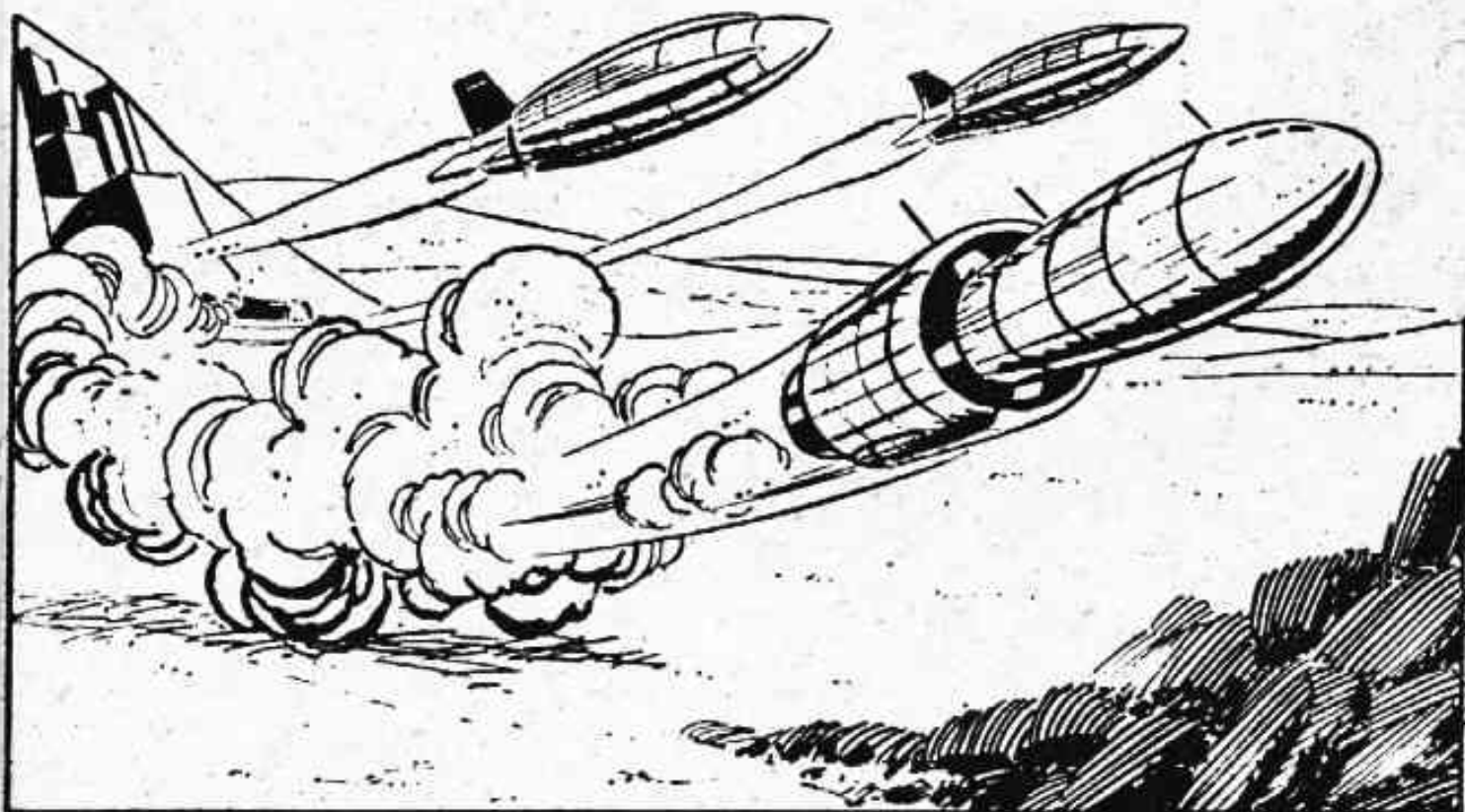
THE FLEET BEGAN TO MOVE OUT.



THEY INTEND TO USE US AS A DECOY WHEN
WE REACH EARTH'S OUTER DEFENCES.



THE FLEET SOARED INTO THE SKY.

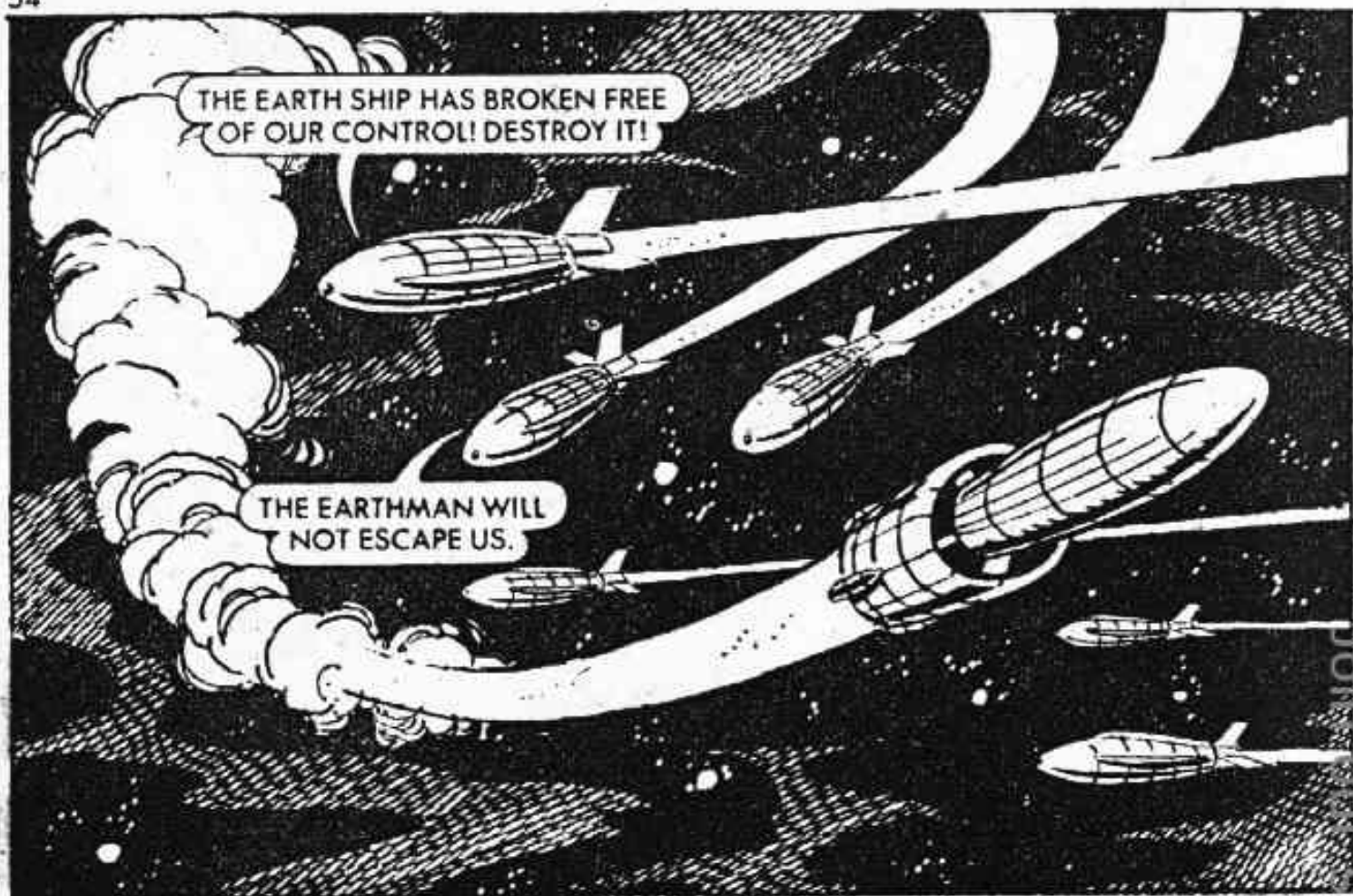


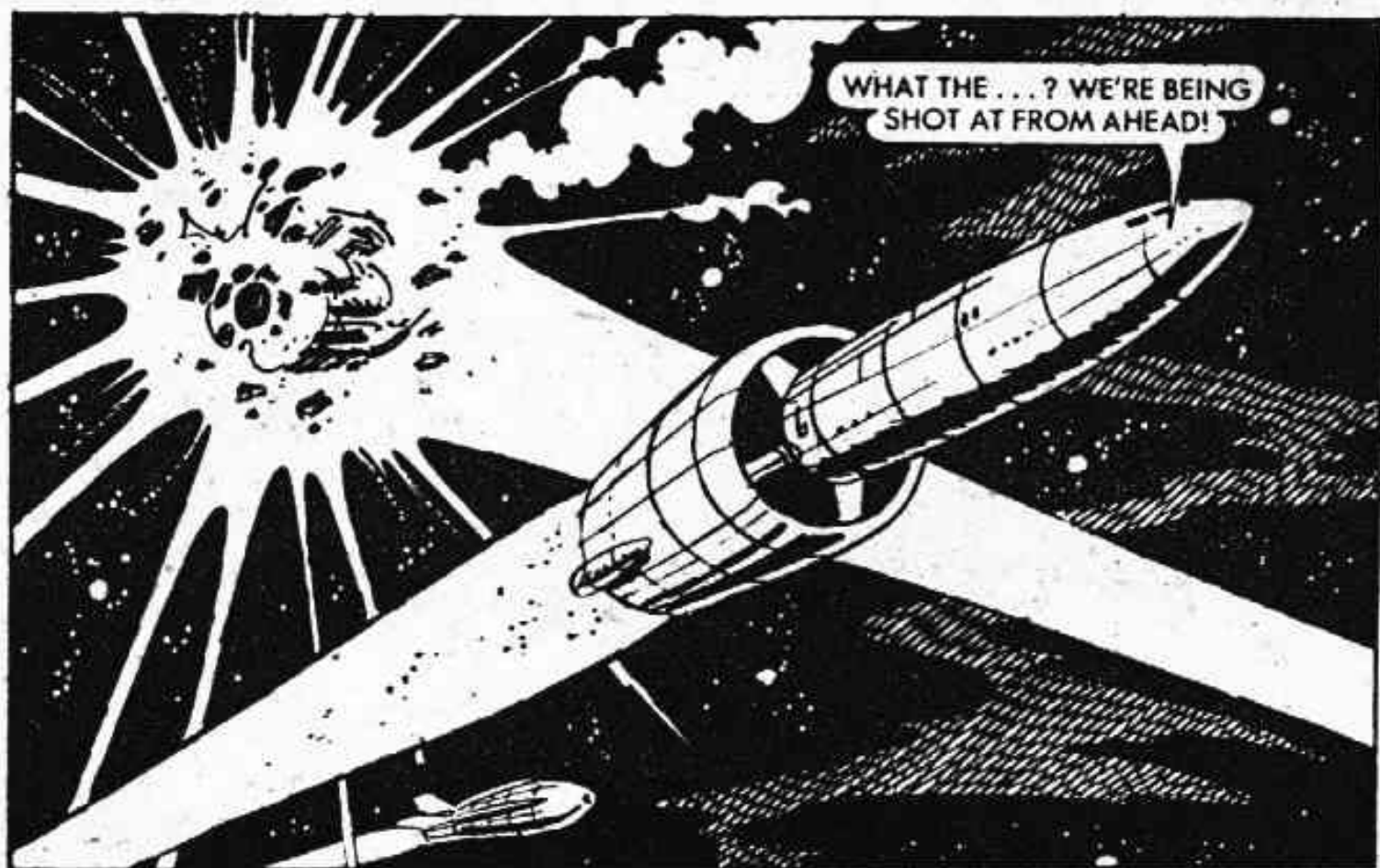
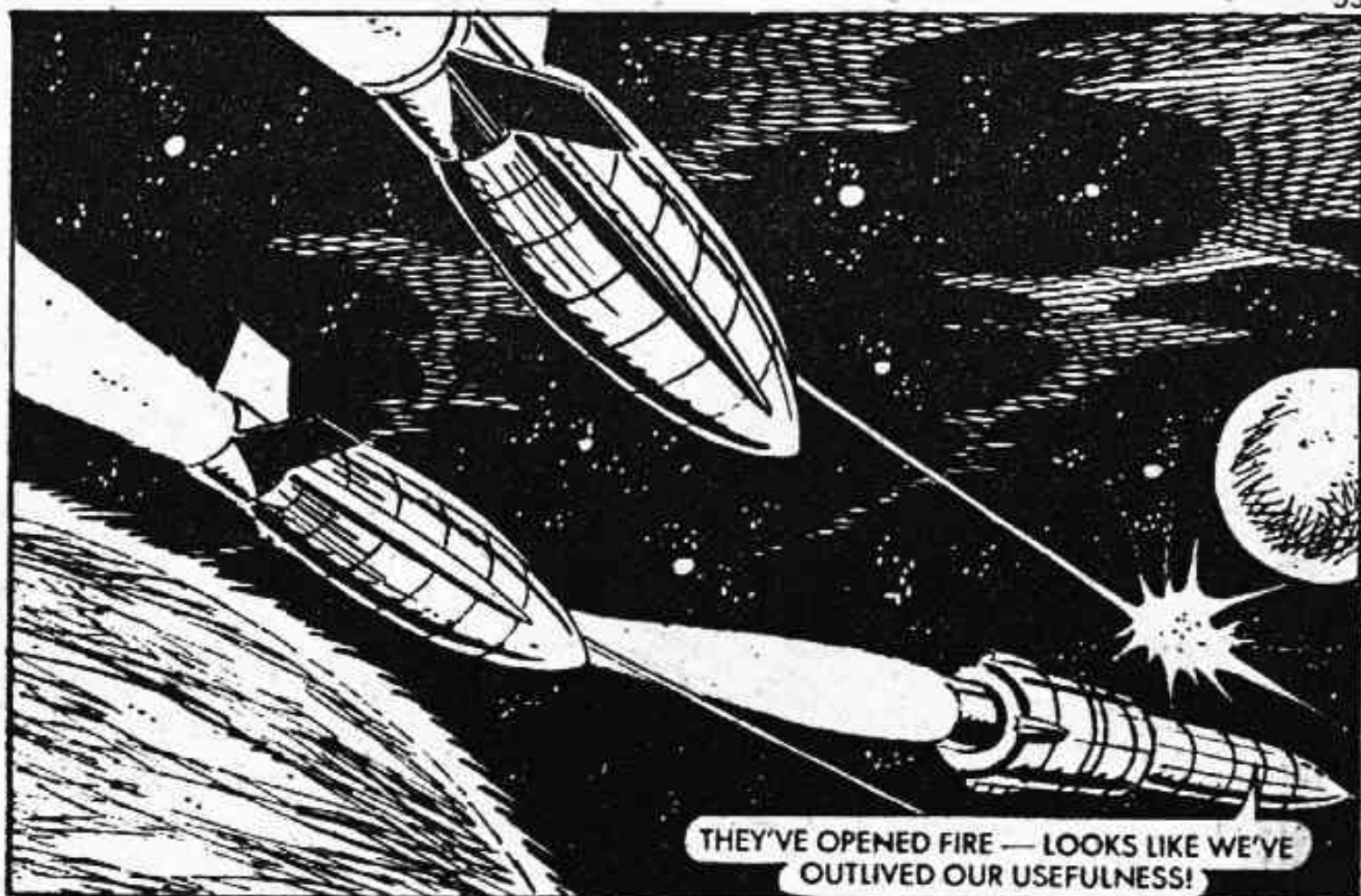


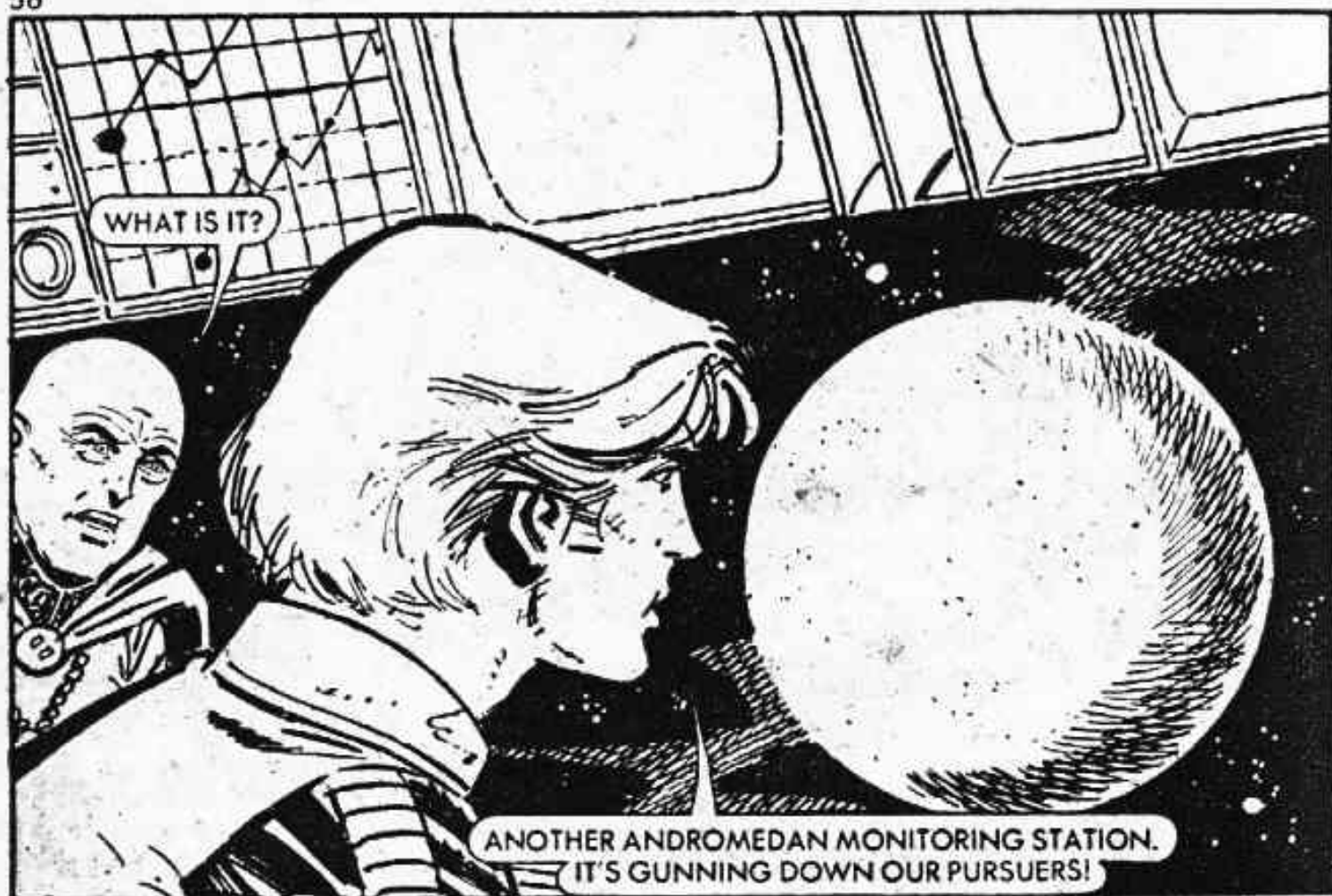
IF I DESTROY THIS CONTROL
OVERRIDE WE'LL BE LEFT WITHOUT A
COMPUTER, SO WE WON'T BE ABLE
TO RETRACE OUR ORIGINAL ROUTE
THROUGH THE FLAME BELT.

YOU CAN'T DESTROY IT. THE
DELTANS HAVE TAKEN ALL HAND WEAPONS.









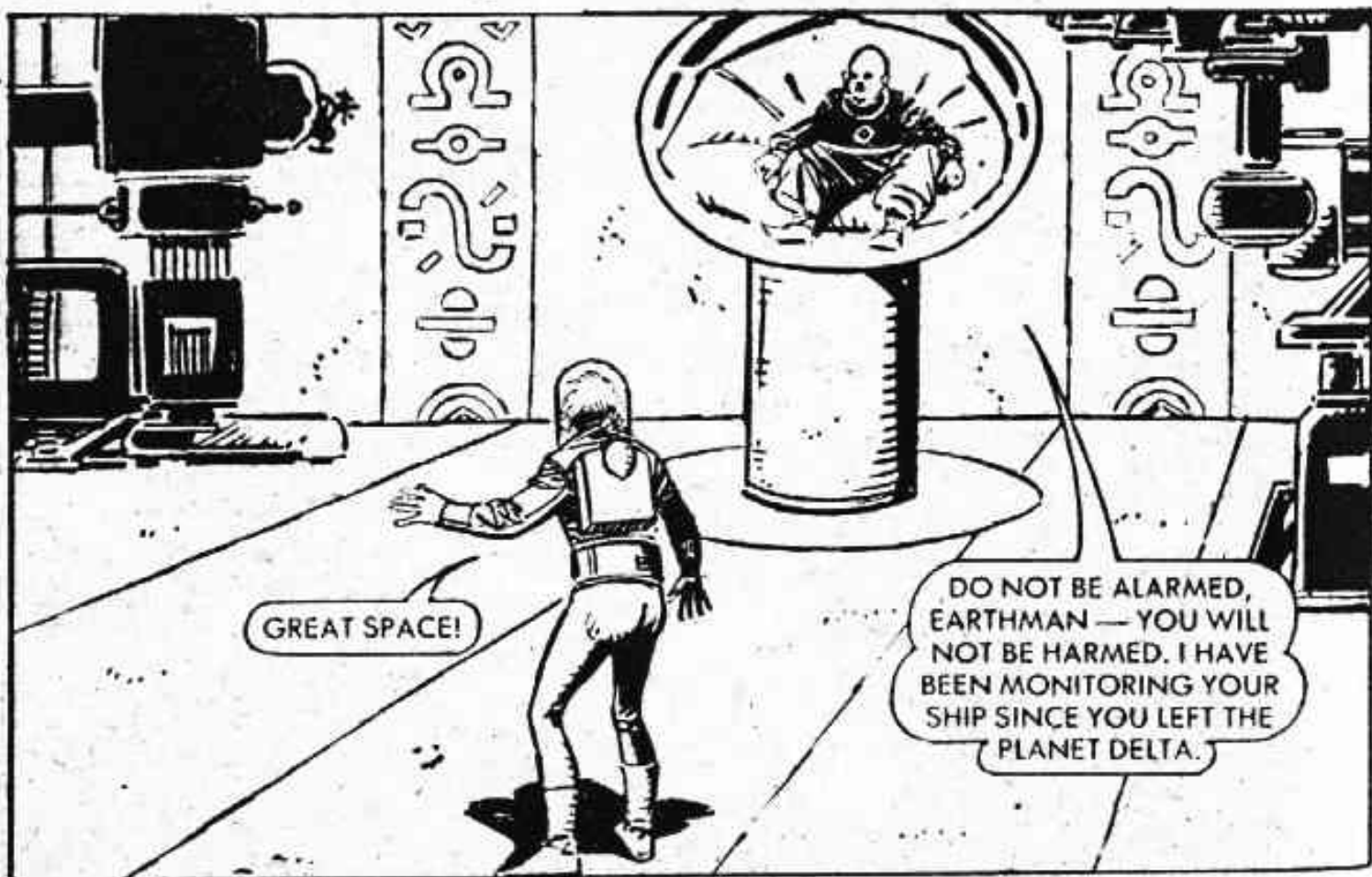


KRIS PASSED THROUGH THE AIRLOCK AND OUT ONTO THE ASTEROID SURFACE.

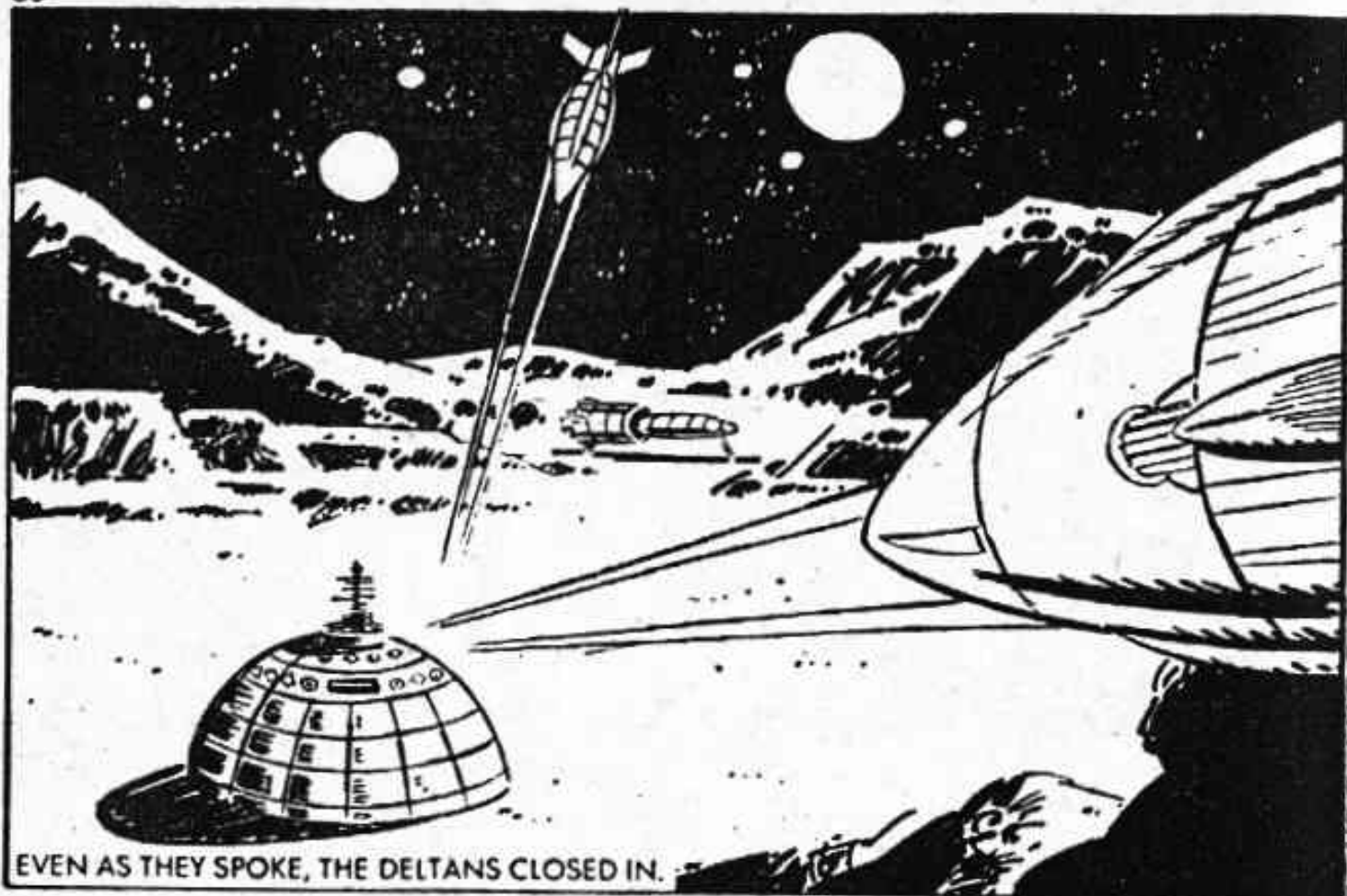


AS HE APPROACHED THE DOME, A DOORWAY OPENED ...

LOOKS LIKE
I'M EXPECTED.







EVEN AS THEY SPOKE, THE DELTANS CLOSED IN.



AS KRIS REACHED HIS SHIP, THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION BEHIND HIM...





THE SPACECRAFT MOVED IN AND OUT OF THE FLAME BELT.



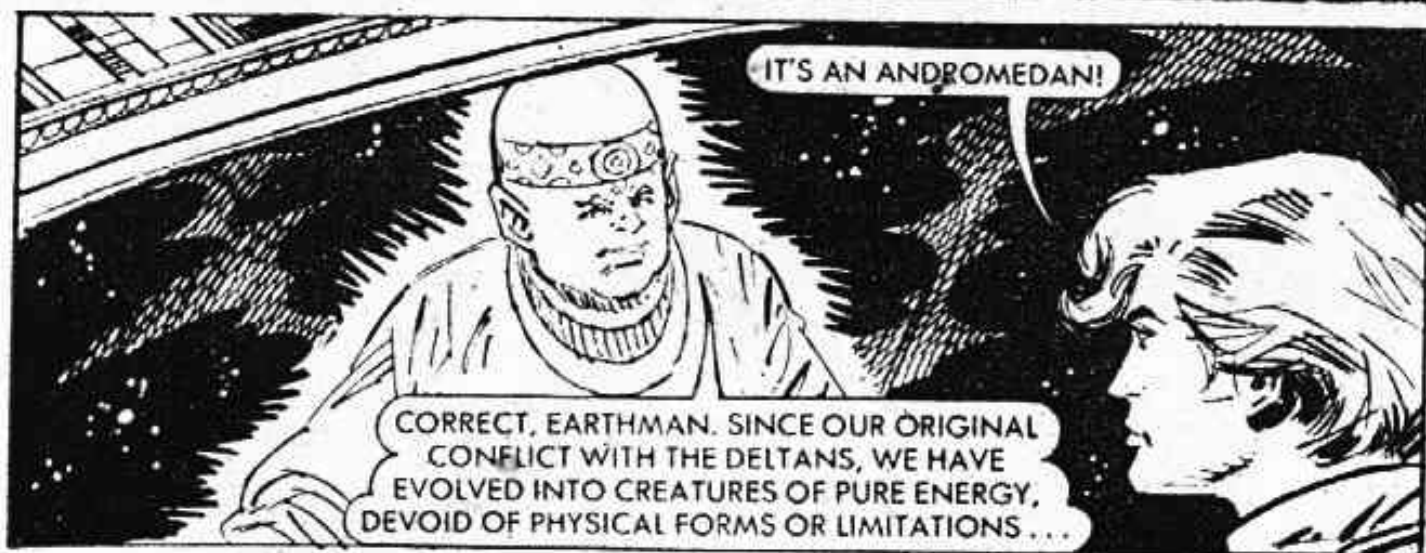


WE'VE BEEN HERDED
INTO A TRAP!



THE FLEET MUST HAVE COME OUT
THROUGH MY ORIGINAL ROUTE... I'M
TAKING US BACK INTO THE FLAME BELT —
AT LEAST WE MAY STAND A CHANCE IF
THEY CAN'T FOLLOW US...

BY THE SPACE SPIRIT! LOOK...



IT'S AN ANDROMEDAN!

CORRECT, EARTHMAN. SINCE OUR ORIGINAL
CONFLICT WITH THE DELTANS, WE HAVE
EVOLVED INTO CREATURES OF PURE ENERGY,
DEVOID OF PHYSICAL FORMS OR LIMITATIONS...

... IT WAS HOPED THAT CONFINEMENT TO ONE PLANET WOULD FORCE THE DELTANS TO ABANDON THEIR WAR-LIKE INSTINCTS — BUT THIS HAS NOT HAPPENED. IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO REMOVE THE THREAT FOR GOOD.



THE ANDROMEDAN SET UP A NULL ENERGY FIELD AROUND THE DELTAN CRAFT.

COMMANDER, OUR SHIP HAS LOST ALL POWER!



WITH NO POWER, THE DELTAN SHIPS' SHIELDS COLLAPSED.



IT'S INCREDIBLE... THE WHOLE
PLANET IS DISAPPEARING!

IT IS BEING REMOVED TO ANOTHER
SPACE-TIME. THE DELTAN MENACE
WILL NEVER AGAIN THREATEN ANY
UNIVERSE.



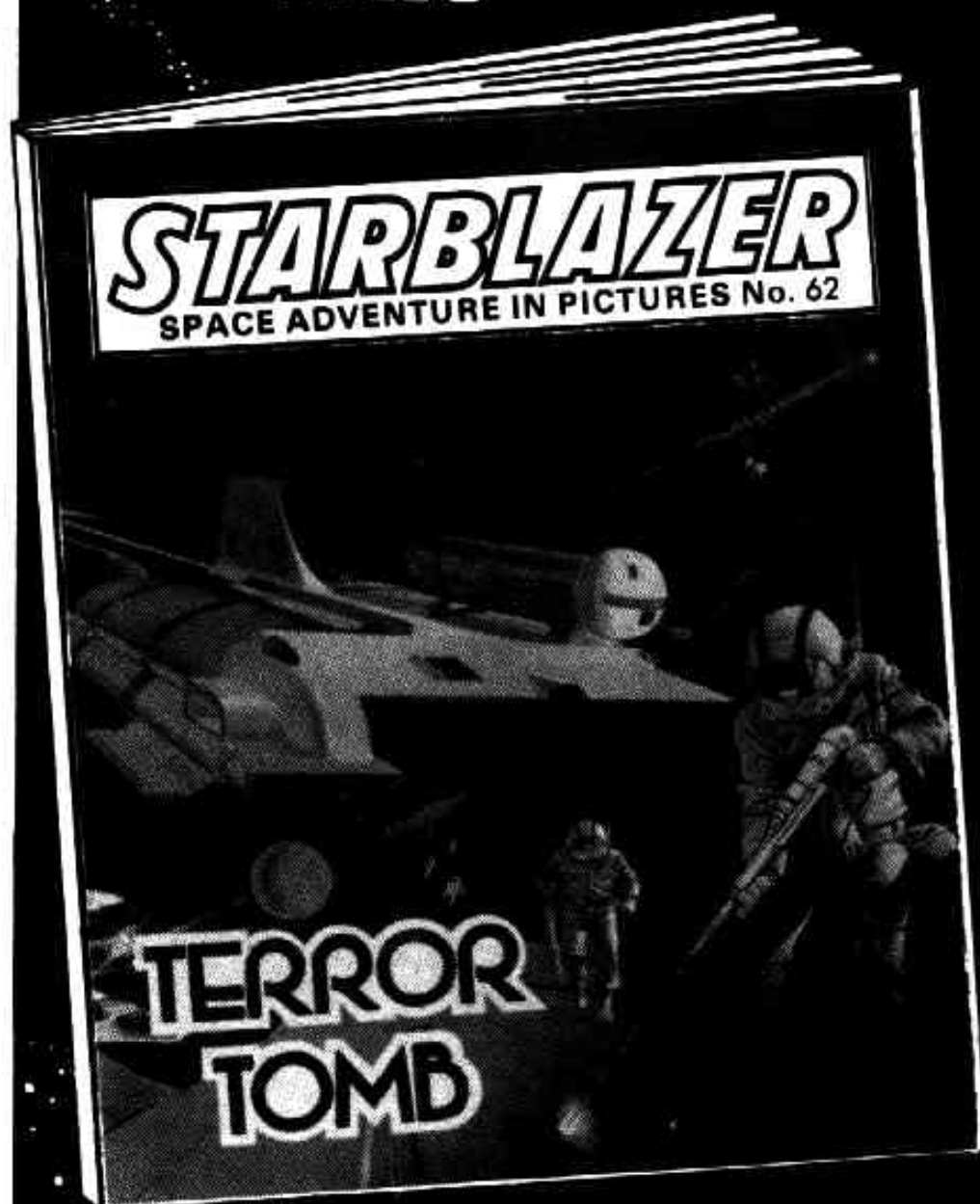
AS DELTA VANISHED FROM EXISTENCE, THE IMAGE OF THE ANDROMEDAN FADED FROM VIEW.

YOUR RACE WILL ONE DAY EVOLVE TO OUR LEVEL.
UNTIL THAT TIME, WE LEAVE YOU AS THE GUARDIANS
OF PEACE IN THIS SECTOR. YOU HAVE SHOWN THAT
YOU HAVE HUMANE TENDENCIES . . . WE SHALL
MONITOR YOUR PROGRESS.



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**NOW THAT YOU'VE READ
THIS**



**DON'T
FORGET
THAT
THERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE THIS
MONTH**

**IT'S ON SALE IN
YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!**

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Synchronous military communications satellites called FLTSATCOM (Fleet Satellite Communication), provide a network for the Navy, Air Force and Department of Defence communications network between aircraft, ships, submarines, ground stations, strategic air command and presidential command networks of the USA.

These were first launched February 9, 1978.